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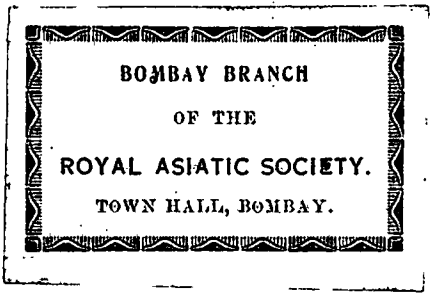

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MOORE'S

POETICAL WORKS,

Complete

IN ONE VOLUME.

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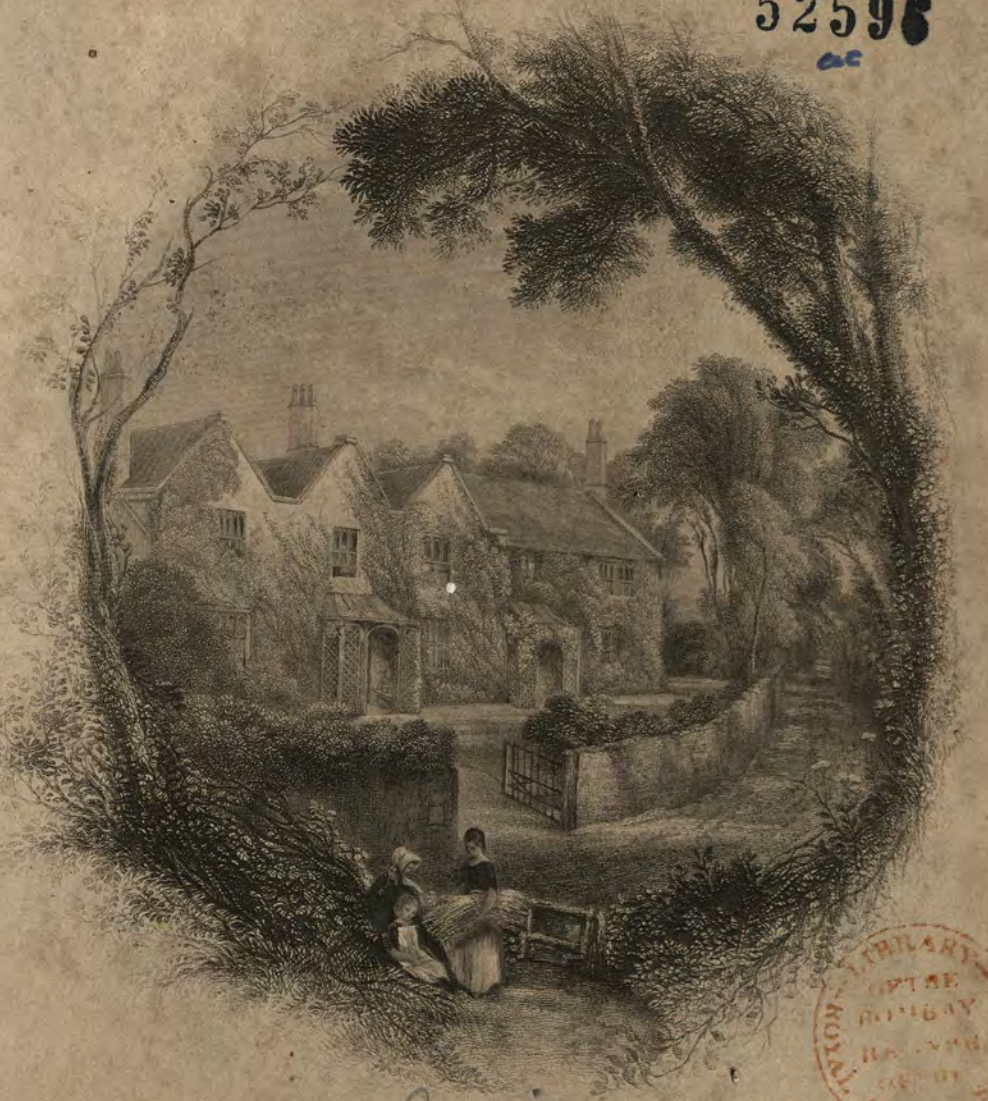

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SLOPERTON COTTAGE.

LONDON.
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN & LONGMAN,
PATERNOSTER ROW.1843.

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THE

POETICAL WORKS

OF

THOMAS MOORE.

COMPLETE IN ONE VOLUME.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,

PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1843.

LONDON:
Printed by A. SPOTTISWOODE,
New-Street-Square.

TO THE

MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE,

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF

NEARLY FORTY YEARS OF MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE

AND FRIENDSHIP,

THIS VOLUME

IS INSCRIBED,

WITH THE SINCEREST FEELINGS OF AFFECTION

AND RESPECT,

BY

THOMAS MOORE.

CONTENTS.

PREFACES TO THE COLLECTED EDITION IN TEN VOLUMES, PUBLISHED IN 1841, 1842 . Page xv.

ODES OF ANACREON.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE, WITH NOTES.

Page

Dedication to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales . 1
Advertisement 1
Index to the Odes 1
An Ode by the Translator 2
Corrections of the preceding Ode, suggested by an eminent Greek Scholar 2
Remarks on Anacreon 3

ODES.

I. I saw the smiling bard of pleasure . . 8
II. Give me the harp of epic song . . . 9
III. Listen to the Muse's lyre . . . 9
IV. Vulcan! hear your glorious task . . 9
V. Sculptor, wouldst thy glad my soul . . 10
VI. As late I sought the spangl'd bowers . 10
VII. The women tell me every day . . 11
VIII. I care not for the idle state . . . 11
IX. I pray thee, by the gods above . . 11
X. How am I to punish thee . . . 12
XI. "Tell me gentle youth, I pray thee . 12
XII. They tell how Atys, wild with love . 13
XIII. I will, I will, the conflict's past . 13
XIV. Count me, on the summer trees . . 14
XV. Tell me, why, my sweetest dove . . 15
XVI. Thou, whose soft and rosy hues . . 16
XVII. And now with all thy pencil's truth . 17
XVIII. Now the star of day is high . . 18
XIX. Here recline you, gentle maid . . 19
XX. One day the Muses twin'd the hands . 19
XXI. Observe when mother earth is dry . 20
XXII. The Phrygian rock, that braves the storm . 20
XXIII. I often wish this languid lyre . . 21
XXIV. To all that breathe the air of heaven . 22
XXV. Once in each revolving year . . . 22
XXVI. Thy harp may sing of Troy's alarms . 23
XXVII. We read the flying courser's name . 23
XXVIII. As, by his Lemnian forge's flame . 23
XXIX. Yes—loving is a painful thrill . . 24
XXX. 'Twas in a mocking dream of night . 25
XXXI. Arm'd with hyacinthine rod . . 25
XXXII. Strew me a fragment bed of leaves . 25
XXXIII. 'Twas noon of night, when round the pole . 26
XXXIV. Oh thou, of all creation blest . . 27
XXXV. Cupid once upon a bed . . . 27
XXXVI. If hoarded gold possess'd the power . 28
XXXVII. 'Twas night, and many a circling bowl . 28
XXXVIII. Let us drain the nectar'd bowl . . 29
XXXIX. How I love the festive boy . . 30
XL. I know that Heaven hath sent me here . 30
XLI. When Spring adorns the dewy scene . 30
XLII. Yes, be the glorious revel mine . . 30
XLIII. While our rosy fillets shed . . . 31
XLIV. Buds of roses, virgin flowers . . . 31
XLV. Within this goblet, rich and deep . . 32
XLVI. Behold the young, the rosy Spring . . 32

Page

XLVII. 'Tis true, my fading years decline . . 33
XLVIII. When my thirsty soul I steep . . 33
XLIX. When Bacchus, Jove's immortal boy . 33
L. When wine I quaff, before my eyes . . 34
LI. Fly not thus my brow of snow . . 34
LII. Away, away, ye men of rules . . 35
LIII. When I behold the festive train . . 35
LIV. Methinks, the pictur'd bull we see . . 36
LV. While we invoke the wreathed spring . 36
LVI. He, who instructs the youthful crew . 37
LVII. Whose was the artist hand that spread . 38
LVIII. When Gold, as fleet as zephyr's pinion . 39
LIX. Ripen'd by the solar beam . . . 39
LX. Awake to life, my sleeping shell . . 40
LXI. Youth's endearing charms are fled . . 41
LXII. Fill me, boy, as deep a draught . . 41
LXIII. To Love, the soft and blooming child . 42
LXIV. Haste thee, nymph, whose well-aimed spear 42
LXV. Like some wanton filly sporting . . 42
LXVI. To thee, the Queen of nymphs divine . 42
LXVII. Rich in bliss, I proudly scorn . . 43
LXVIII. Now Neptune's mouth our sky deforms . 43
LXIX. They wove the lotus band to deck . . 43
LXX. A broken cake with honey sweet . . 44
LXXI. With twenty chords my lyre is hung . 44
LXXII. Fare thee well, perfidious maid . . 44
LXXIII. Awhile I bloom'd a happy flower . . 44
LXXIV. Monarch Love, resistless boy . . 44
LXXV. Spirit of Love, whose locks unroll'd . 44
LXXVI. Hither, gentle Muse of mine . . . 45
LXXVII. Would that I were a tuneful lyre . . 45
LXXVIII. When Cupid sees how thickly now . . 45

Cupid, whose lamp has lent the ray . . . 45
Let me resign this wretched breath . . . 45
I know thou lov'st a brimming measure . . 45
I fear that love disturbs my rest 45
From dread Leucadia's frowning steep . . . 46
Mix me, child, a cup divine 46

EPIGRAMS FROM THE ANTHOLOGIA.

NOTICE 46
Αντιπατρου Σιδωνιου, εις Ανακρεοντα . . . 46
Του αυτου, εις τον αυτον 47
Του αυτου, εις τον αυτον 47
Του αυτου, εις τον αυτον 48

JUVENILE POEMS.

Preface, by the Editor 49
Dedication to Joseph Atkinson, Esq. . . . 50
Fragments of College Exercises 51
Is there no call, no consecrating cause . . . 51
Variety 51
To a Boy with a Watch. Written for a friend . . 51
Song 51
To 52
Song 52
Song 53

	Page
Reuben and Rose. A tale of Romance	53
Did not	54
To	54
To Mrs. ....., on some calumnies against her character	54
Anacreontic	54
To	54
To Julia, in allusion to some illiberal criticisms	55
To Julia	55
The Shrine. To	55
To a Lady, with some manuscript Poems, on leaving the country	55
To Julia	56
To	56
Nature's Labels. A fragment	56
To Julia. On her birthday	57
A Reflection at Sea	57
Cloris and Fanny	57
The Shield	57
To Julia, weeping	58
Dreams. To	58
To Rosa. Written during illness	58
Song	59
The Sale of Loves	59
To	59
To	60
On the Death of a Lady	60
Inconstancy	60
The Natal Genius. A dream. To ....., the morning of her birthday	60
Elegaic Stanzas, supposed to be written by Julia, on the death of her brother	61
To the large and beautiful Miss ....., in allusion to some partnership in a lottery share. Impromptu	61
A Dream	62
To	62
Anacreontic	62
To Julia	62
Hymn of a Virgin of Delphi, at the tomb of her mother	62
Sympathy. To Julia	63
The Tear	63
The Snake	63
To Rosa	64
Elegiac Stanzas	64
Love and Marriage	64
Anacreontic	64
The Surprise	65
To Miss ....., on her asking the author why she had sleepless nights	65
The Wonder	65
Lying	65
Anacreontic	65
The Philosopher Aristippus to a Lamp, which had been given him by Lais	66
To Mrs. ——, on her beautiful translation of Voiture's Kiss	67
Rondeau	67
Song	68
To Rosa	68
Written in a commonplace book, called "The Book of Follies"	68
To Rosa	68
Light sounds the Harp	69
From the Greek of Meleager	69
Song	69
The Resemblance	70
Fanny, dearest	70
The Ring. To	70
To the Invisible Girl	71
The Ring. A tale	72
To ....., on seeing her with a white veil and a rich girdle	75
Written in the blank leaf of a lady's commonplace book	75
To Mrs. Bl——, written in her album	75
To Cara, after an interval of absence	76
To Cara, on the dawning of a new year's day	76
To ....., 1801	76
The Genius of Harmony. An irregular ode	77
I found her not — the chamber seem'd	79
To Mrs. Henry Tighe, on reading her "Psyche"	79
From the High Priest of Apollo to a Virgin of Delphi	80
Fragment	81
A Night Thought	81
The Kiss	81
Song	81
The Catalogue	82
Imitation of Catullus to himself	82
Oh woman, if through sinful wile	82
Nonsense	83
Epigram, from the French	83
On a Squinting Poetess	83
To	83
To Rosa	83
To Phillis	83
To a Lady on her singing	83
Song. On the birthday of Mrs ——. Written in Ireland, 1799	84
Song	84
Morality. A familiar epistle. Addressed to J. Atkinson, Esq. M. R. I. A.	84
The Tell-tale Lyre	85
Peace and Glory. Written on the approach of war	86
Song	86
Love and Reason	87
Nay, do not weep, my Fanny dear	87
Aspasia	88
The Grecian Girl's Dream of the Blessed Islands. To her lover	88
To Cloe, imitated from Martial	90
The Wreath and the Chain	90
To	90
To .....'s Picture	91
Fragment of a Mythological Hymn to Love	91
To his Serene Highness the Duke of Monpentsier, on his portrait of the Lady Adelaide Forbes	92
The Fall of Hebe. A dithyrambic ode	92
Rings and Seals	94
To Miss Susan B—ckf—d. On her singing	95
Impromptu, on leaving some friends	95
A Warning. To	96
To	96
Woman	96
To	97
A Vision of Philosophy	97
To Mrs.	100
To Lady Heathcote, on an old ring found at Tunbridge Wells	100
The Devil among the Scholars. A fragment	101

POEMS RELATING TO AMERICA.

	Page
Dedication, to Francis, Earl of Moira	104
Preface	104
To Lord Viscount Strangford. Aboard the Phaeton frigate, off the Azores, by moonlight.	105
Stanzas	106
To the Flying-fish	107
To Miss Moore. From Norfolk, in Virginia, Nov. 1803	107
A Ballad. The Lake of the Dismal Swamp. Written at Norfolk, in Virginia	108
To the Marchioness Dowager of Donegal. From Bermuda, January, 1804	109

Page

To George Morgan, Esq., of Norfolk, Virginia. From Bermuda, January, 1804 110
Lines written in a storm at sea 112
Odes to Nea: —
Nay, tempt me not to love again 112
I pray you, let us roam no more 113
You read it in these spell-bound eyes . . . 113
A Dream of Antiquity 114
Well — peace to thy heart, though another's it be . 115
If I were yonder wave, my dear 115
The Snow Spirit 116
I stole along the flowery bank 116
A Study from the Antique 117
There's not a look, a word of thine 117
To Joseph Atkinson, Esq. From Bermuda . . 118
The Steersman's Song. Written aboard the Boston frigate, 28th of April 119
To the Fire-fly 119
To the Lord Viscount Forbes. From the city of Washington 119
To Thomas Hume, Esq. M.D. From the city of Washington 122
Lines written on leaving Philadelphia . . . 123
Lines written at the Cohos, or Falls of the Mohawk River 124
Song of the Evil Spirit of the Woods 124
To the Honourable W. R. Spencer. From Buffalo, upon Lake Erie 125
Ballad Stanzas 127
A Canadian Boat Song. Written on the River St. Lawrence 127
To the Lady Charlotte Rawdon. From the banks of the St. Lawrence 128
Impromptu, after a visit to Mrs. ——, of Montreal . 130
Written on passing Deadman's Island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, late in the evening, September, 1804 . 130
To the Boston Frigate, on leaving Halifax for England, October, 1804 131

CORRUPTION, AND INTOLERANCE:

TWO POEMS. ADDRESSED TO AN ENGLISHMAN BY AN IRISHMAN.

Preface 132
CORRUPTION 133
INTOLERANCE. A Satire 138
Appendix 141

THE SCEPTIC, A PHILOSOPHICAL SATIRE . 143

TWOPENNY POST-BAG.

BY THOMAS BROWN THE YOUNGER.

Dedication. To Stephen Woolriche, Esq. . . 147
Preface 147
Preface to the Fourteenth Edition. By a Friend of the Author 148

INTERCEPTED LETTERS, &c.

Page

LETTER I. From the Pr—nc—ss Ch—rl—e of W—l—s to the Lady B—rb—a Ashl—y . . . 149
LETTER II. From Colonel M'M—h—n to G—ld Fr—nc—s L—ckie, Esq. 150
Postscript 151
LETTER III. From G—ge Pr—ce R—gt to the E—— of Y——th 151
LETTER IV. From the Right Hon. P—tr—ck D—gen—n to the Right Hon. Sir J—hn N—ch—l . 152
LETTER V. From the Countess Dowager of C—rk to Lady—— 153
Postscript 154
LETTER VI. From Abdallah, in London, to Mohassan in Ispahan 154
Gazel 155
LETTER VII. From Messrs. L—ck—gt—n and Co. to ——— ———, Esq. 155
LETTER VIII. From Colonel Th—m—s to ——— Sk—ff—ngt—n, Esq. 156
APPENDIX 157
Letter IV. Page 152. 157
Letter VII. Page 155. 158

SATIRICAL AND HUMOROUS POEMS.

The Insurrection of the Papers. A Dream . . 160
Parody of a celebrated Letter 161
Anacreontic to a Plumassier 163
Extracts from the Diary of a Politician . . . 163
Epigram 164
King Crack and his Idols. Written after the late Negotiation for a new M—n—stry 164
What's my Thought like? 164
Epigram. Dialogue between a Catholic Delegate and His R—y—l H—ghn—ss the D—e of C—b—l—d 165
Wreaths for the Ministers An Anacreontic . . 165
Epigram. Dialogue between a Dowager and her Maid on the Night of Lord Y—rm—th's Fête . . 165
Horace. Ode XI. Lib. II. Freely translated by the Pr—ce R—g—t 165
Horace, Ode XXII. Lib. I. Freely translated by Lord Eld—n 166
The New Costume of the Ministers 167
Correspondence between a Lady and Gentleman, upon the Advantage of (what is called) "having Law on one's Side" 168
Occasional Address for the Opening of the New Theatre of St. St—ph—n, intended to have been spoken by the Proprietor in full Costume, on the 24th of November, 1812 168
The Sale of the Tools 169
Little Man and Little Soul. A Ballad. . . . 170
Reinforcements for Lord Wellington 170
Horace, Ode I. Lib. III. A Fragment 171
Horace, Ode XXXVIII. Lib. I. A Fragment. Translated by a Treasury Clerk, while waiting Dinner for the Right Hon. G—rge R—se 171
Impromptu. Upon being obliged to leave a pleasant Party, from the Want of a Pair of Breeches to dress for Dinner in 171
Lord Wellington and the Ministers 171

IRISH MELODIES.

Dedication to the Marchioness Dowager of Donegal . 172
Preface 172
Go where Glory waits thee 172
War Song. Remember the Glories of Brien the Brave 173
Erin! the Tear and the Smile in thine Eyes . . 173
Oh, breathe not his Name 173
When he, who adores thee 173
The Harp that once through Tara's Halls . . 174
Fly not yet 174
Oh, think not my Spirits are always as light . 174
Tho' the last Glimpse of Erin with Sorrow I see . 175
Rich and rare were the Gems she wore . . . 175
As a Beam o'er the Face of the Waters may glow . 175
The Meeting of the Waters 175
How dear to me the Hour 176

	Page
Take back the Virgin Page. Written on returning a blank Book	176
The Legacy	176
How oft has the Benshee cried	177
We may roam through this World	177
Eveleen's Bower	177
Let Erin remember the Days of old	178
The Song of Fionnuala	178
Come, send round the Wine	178
Sublime was the Warning	179
Believe me, if all those endearing young Charms	179
Erin, oh Erin	179
Drink to her	180
Oh, blame not the Bard	180
While gazing on the Moon's Light	181
Ill Omens	181
Before the Battle	181
After the Battle	182
'Tis sweet to think	182
The Irish Peasant to his Mistress	182
On Music	183
It is not the Tear at this Moment shed	183
The Origin of the Harp	183
Love's Young Dream	184
The Prince's Day	184
Weep on, weep on	184
Lesbia hath a beaming Eye	185
I saw thy Form in youthful Prime	185
By that Lake, whose gloomy Shore	185
She is far from the Land	186
Nay, tell me not, dear	186
Avenging and bright	187
What the Bee is to the Floweret	187
Love and the Novice	187
This Life is all chequer'd with Pleasures and Woes	187
Oh the Shamrock	188
At the mid Hour of Night	188
One Bumper at parting	189
'Tis the last Rose of Summer	189
The young May Moon	189
The Minstrel-Boy	190
The Song of O'Ruark, Prince of Breffni	190
Oh, had we some bright little Isle of our own	190
Farewell! — But whenever you welcome the Hour	191
Oh, doubt me not	191
You remember Ellen	191
I'd mourn the Hopes	192
Come o'er the Sea	192
Has Sorrow thy young Days shaded	192
No, not more welcome	193
When first I met thee	193
While History's Muse	194
The Time I've lost in wooing	194
Where is the Slave	194
Come, rest in this Bosom	195
'Tis gone, and for ever	195
I saw from the Beach	195
Fill the Bumper fair	196
Dear Harp of my Country	196
My gentle Harp	197
In the Morning of Life	197
As slow our Ship	197
When cold in the Earth	198
Remember thee	198
Wreath the Bowl	198
Wheue'er I see those smiling Eyes	199
If thou'lt be mine	199
To Ladies' Eyes	199
Forget not the Field	200
They may rail at this Life	200
Oh for the Swords of former Time	201
St. Senanus and the Lady	201
No'er ask the Hour	201
Sail on, sail on	201
The Parallel	202
Drink of this Cup	202
The Fortune-teller	203
Oh, ye Dead	203
O'Donohue's Mistress	203
Echo	204
Oh banquet not	204
Thee, thee, only thee	204
Shall the Harp then be silent	204
Oh, the Sight entrancing	205
Sweet Innisfallen	206
'Twas one of those Dreams	206
Fairest! put on awhile	206
Quick! we have but a Second	207
And doth not a Meeting like this	207
The Mountain Sprite	208
As vanquish'd Erin	208
Desmond's Song	208
They know not my Heart	209
I wish I was by that dim Lake	209
She sung of Love	209
Sing — sing — Music was given	210
Though humble the Banquet	210
Sing, sweet Harp	211
Song of the Battle Eve	211
The wandering Bard	211
Alone in Crowds to wander on	212
I've a Secret to tell thee	212
Song of Innisfail	212
The Night Dance	213
There are Sounds of Mirth	213
Oh! Arranmore, loved Arranmore	213
Lay his Sword by his Side	214
Oh, could we do with this World of ours	214
The Wine-cup is circling	214
The Dream of those Days	215
From this Hour the Pledge is given	215
Silence is in our festal Halls	215
APPENDIX:	
Advertisement prefixed to the First and Second Numbers	216
Advertisement to the Third Number	216
Letter to the Marchioness Dowager of Donegal prefixed to the Third Number	217
Advertisement to the Fourth Number	220
Advertisement to the Fifth Number	221
Advertisement to the Sixth Number	222
Advertisement to the Seventh Number	222
Dedication to the Marchioness of Headfort prefixed to the Tenth Number	222
NATIONAL AIRS.	
Advertisement	223
A Temple to Friendship. (Spanish Air.)	223
Flow on, thou shining River. (Portuguese Air.)	224
All that's bright must fade. (Indian Air.)	224
So warmly we met. (Hungarian Air.)	224
Those Evening bells. (Air. — The Bells of St. Petersburgh.)	224
Should those fond Hopes. (Portuguese Air.)	225
Reason, Folly, and Beauty. (Italian Air.)	225
Fare thee well, thou lovely one! (Sicilian Air.)	225
Dost thou remember. (Portuguese Air.)	226
Oh, come to me when Daylight sets. (Venetian Air)	226
Oft, in the stilly Night. (Scotch Air.)	226
Hark! the Vesper Hymn is stealing. (Russian Air.)	226
Love and Hope. (Swiss Air.)	227
There comes a Time. (German Air.)	227
My Harp has one unchanging Theme. (Swedish Air.)	227

Page

Oh, no—not even when first we lov'd. (Cashmerian Air.) 227
Peace be around thee. (Scotch Air.) . . . 228
Common Sense and Genius. (French Air.) . . 228
Then, fare thee well. (Old English Air.) . . 228
Gaily sounds the Castanet. (Maltese Air.) . . 229
Love is a Hunter-boy. (Languedocian Air.) . . 229
Come, chase that starting Tear away. (French Air.) . 229
Joys of Youth, how fleeting; (Portuguese Air.) . 229
Hear me but once. (French Air.) . . . 230
When Love was a Child. (Swedish Air.) . . 230
Say, what shall be our Sport to-day? (Sicilian Air.) . 230
Bright be thy Dreams. (Welsh Air.) . . . 230
Go, then—'tis vain. (Sicilian Air.) . . . 231
The Crystal Hunters. (Swiss Air.) . . . 231
Row gently here. (Venetian Air.) . . . 231
Oh, Days of Youth.' (French Air.) . . . 231
When first that Smile. (Venetian Air.) . . 232
Peace to the Slumberers! (Catalonian Air.) . . 232
When thou shalt wander. (Sicilian Air.) . . 232
Who'll buy my Love-knots? (Portuguese Air.) . 232
See, the Dawn from Heaven. (To an Air sung at Rome, on Christmas Eve.) 233
Nets and Cages. (Swedish Air.) . . . 233
When through the Piazzetta. (Venetian Air.) . 233
Go, now, and dream. (Sicilian Air.) . . . 234
Take hence the Bowl. (Neapolitan Air.) . . 234
Farewell, Theresa! (Venetian Air.) . . . 234
How oft, when watching Stars. (Savoyard Air.) . 234
When the first Summer Bee. (German Air.) . . 235
Though 'tis all but a Dream. (French Air.) . . 235
When the Wine-cup is smiling. (Italian Air.) . . 235
Where shall we bury our Shame? (Neapolitan Air.) . 235
Ne'er talk of Wisdom's gloomy Schools. (Mahratta Air.) 235
Here sleeps the Bard. (Highland Air.) . . . 236
Do not say that Life is waning 236
The Gazelle 236
No—leave my Heart to rest 236
Where are the Visions 237
Wind thy Horn, my Hunter Boy 237
Oh, guard our Affection 237
Slumber, oh slumber 237
Bring the bright Garlands hither 237
If in loving, singing 238
Thou lov'st no more 238
When abroad in the World 238
Keep those Eyes still purely mine . . . 238
Hope comes again 238
O say, thou best and brightest 239
When Night brings the Hour 239
Like one who, doom'd 239
Fear not that, while around thee 239
When Love is kind 240
The Garland I send thee 240
How shall I woo? 240
Spring and Autumn 240
Love alone 241

SACRED SONGS.

Dedication to Edward Tuite Dalton, Esq. . . 241
Thou art, O God (Air.—Unknown.) . . . 241
The Bird, let loose. (Air.—Beethoven.) . . 242
Fallen is thy Throne. (Air.—Martini.) . . 242
Who is the Maid? St. Jerome's Love. (Air.—Beethoven,) 242
This World is all a fleeting Show. (Air.—Stevenson). 243
Oh Thou who dry'st the Mourner's Tear. (Air.—Haydn.) 243
Weep not for those. (Air.—Avison.) . . . 243

Page

The Turf shall be my fragrant Shrine. (Air.—Stevenson.) 244
Sound the loud Timbrel. Miriam's Song. (Air.—Avison.) 244
Go, let me weep. (Air.—Stevenson.) . . . 244
Come not, O Lord. (Air.—Haydn.) . . . 245
Were not the sinful Mary's Tears. (Air.—Stevenson.) 245
As down in the sunless Retreats. (Air.—Haydn.) . 245
But who shall see. (Air.—Stevenson.) . . 245
Almighty God. Chorus of Priests. (Air.—Mozart.) 246
Oh fair! oh purest! Saint Augustine to his Sister. (Air.—Moore.) 246
Angel of Charity. (Air.—Handel.) . . . 246
Behold the Sun. (Air.—Lord Mornington.) . . 247
Lord, who shall bear that Day. (Air.—Dr. Boyce.) . 247
Oh, teach me to love Thee. (Air.—Haydn.) . . 247
Weep, Children of Israel. (Air.—Stevenson.) . 248
Like Morning, when her early Breeze. (Air.—Beethoven.) 248
Come, ye disconsolate. (Air.—German.) . . 248
Awake, arise, thy Light is come. Air.—Stevenson. . 248
There is a bleak Desert. (Air.—Crescentini.) . 249
Since first Thy Word. (Air.—Nicholas Freeman.) . 249
Hark! 'tis the Breeze. (Air.—Rousseau.) . . 250
Where is your Dwelling, ye sainted? (Air.—Hasse.) 250
How lightly mounts the Muse's Wing. (Air.—Anonymous.) 250
Go forth to the Mount. (Air.—Stevenson.) . . 251
Is it not sweet to think, hereafter. (Air.—Haydn.) . 251
War against Babylon. (Air.—Novello.) . . 251
The Summer Fête 252
Dedication to the Honourable Mrs. Norton . . 252

EVENINGS IN GREECE.

First Evening 262
Second Evening 270

LEGENDARY BALLADS.

Dedication to the Miss Fieldings . . . 280
The Voice 280
Cupid and Psyche 280
Hero and Leander 281
The Leaf and the Fountain 281
Cephalus and Procris 282
Youth and Age 282
The dying Warrior 282
The Magic Mirror 283
The Pilgrim 283
The high-born Ladye 283
The Indian Boat 284
The Stranger 284
A Melologue upon National Music . . . 285
Advertisement 285

SET OF GLEES.

MUSIC BY MOORE.

The Meeting of the Ships 287
Hip, hip, hurrah! 287
Hush, hush! 287
The Parting before the Battle 288
The Watchman. A Trio 288
Say, what shall we dance? 288
The Evening Gun 289

BALLADS, SONGS, MISCELLANEOUS POEMS, &c.

To-day, dearest! is ours 289
When on the Lip the Sigh delays 289

	Page
Here, take my Heart	290
Oh, call it by some better Name	290
Poor wounded Heart	290
The East Indian	290
Poor broken Flower	290
The pretty Rose Tree	291
Shine out, Stars!	291
The young Muleteers of Grenada	291
Tell her, oh, tell her	291
Nights of Music	292
Our first young Love	292
Black and Blue Eyes	292
Dear Fanny	292
From Life without Freedom	293
Here's the Bower	293
I saw the Moon rise clear. (A Finland Love Song)	293
Love and the Sun-dial	293
Love and Time	293
Love's light Summer-cloud	294
Love, wand'ring through the golden Maze	294
Merrily every Bosom boundeth. (The Tyrolese Song of Liberty)	294
Remember the Time. (The Castilian Maid)	295
Oh, soon return	295
Love thee?	295
One dear Smile	295
Yes, yes, when the Bloom	296
The Day of Love	296
Lusitanian War-song	296
The young Rose	296
When 'midst the Gay I meet	296
When Twilight Dews	297
Young Jessica	297
How happy, once	297
I love but thee	297
Let Joy alone be remember'd now	298
Love thee, dearest? love thee?	298
My Heart and Lute	298
Peace, peace to him that's gone!	298
Rose of the Desert	299
'Tis all for thee	299
The song of the Olden Time	299
Wake thee, my dear	299
The Boy of the Alps	300
For thee alone	300
Her last Words, at parting	300
Let's take this World as some wide Scene	301
Love's Victory	301
Song of Hercules to his Daughter	301
The Dream of Home	302
They tell me thou'rt the favour'd Guest	302
The young Indian Maid	302
The Homeward March	302
Wake up, sweet Melody	303
Calm be thy sleep	303
The Exile	303
The Fancy Fair	303
If thou wouldst have me sing and play	304
Still when Daylight	304
The Summer Webs	304
Mind not though Daylight	304
They met but once	305
With Moonlight beaming	305
Child's Song. From a Masque	305
The Halcyon hangs o'er Ocean	305
The World was hush'd	305
The two Loves	306
The Legend of Puck the Fairy	306
Beauty and Song	307
When thou art nigh	307
Song of a Hyperborean	307
Thou bidst me sing	307
Cupid armed	308
Round the World goes	308
Oh, do not look so bright and blest	308
The Musical Box	309
When to sad Music silent you listen	309
The Language of Flowers	309
The Dawn is breaking o'er us	309

SONGS FROM THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY.

Here at thy Tomb. (By Meleager)	310
Sale of Cupid. (By Meleager)	310
To weave a Garland for the Rose. (By Paul, the Silentiary)	310
Why does she so long delay? (By Paul, the Silentiary)	311
Twin'st thou with lofty Wreath thy Brow. (By Paul the Silentiary)	311
When the sad Word. (By Paul, the Silentiary)	311
My Mopsa is little. (By Philodemus)	312
Still, like Dew in silence falling. (By Meleager)	312
Up, Sailor Boy, 'tis Day	312
In Myrtle Wreaths. (By Alcæus)	312

UNPUBLISHED SONGS, &c.

Ask not if still I love	313
Dear? yes	313
Unbind thee, Love	313
There's something strange. (A Buffo Song)	314
Not from thee	314
Guess, guess	314
When Love, who rul'd	314
Still thou flest	315
Then first from Love	315
Hush, sweet Lute	315
Bright Moon	316
Long Years have pass'd	316
Dreaming for ever	316
Though lightly sounds the Song I sing. (A Song of the Alps)	316
The Russian Lover	317

LALLA ROOKH.

Dedication	317
THE VEILED PROPHET OF KHORASSAN	320
PARADISE AND THE PERI	350
THE FIRE-WORSHIPPERS	359
THE LIGHT OF THE HAREM	386

POLITICAL AND SATIRICAL POEMS.

Lines on the Death of Mr. P—rc—v—l	399
Fum and Hum, the Two Birds of Royalty	399
Lines on the Death of Sh—r—d—n	400
Epistle from Tom Crib to Big Ben, concerning some foul Play in a late Transaction	401

THE FUDGE FAMILY IN PARIS.

Preface	402
Letter I. From Miss Biddy Fudge to Miss Dorothy ——, of Clonkilty, in Ireland	402
Letter II. From Phil. Fudge, Esq. to the Lord Viscount C—st—r—gh	404
Letter III. From Mr. Bob Fudge to Richard ——, Esq.	406
Letter IV. From Phelim Connor to ——	408
Letter V. From Miss Biddy Fudge to Miss Dorothy ——	409

Page

Letter VI. From Phil. Fudge, Esq. to his Brother Tim Fudge, Esq. Barrister at Law . . . 411
Letter VII. From Phelim Connor to —— . . . 414
Letter VIII. From Mr. Bob Fudge to Richard ——, Esq. 416
Letter IX. From Phil. Fudge, Esq. to the Lord Viscount C—st—r—h 418
Letter X. From Miss Biddy Fudge to Miss Dorothy —— 422
Letter XI. From Phelim Connor to —— . . . 424
Letter XII. From Miss Biddy Fudge to Miss Dorothy —— 425

FABLES FOR THE HOLY ALLIANCE.

Dedication. To Lord Byron 427
Preface 428
Fable I. The Dissolution of the Holy Alliance. A Dream 428
Fable II. The Looking-glasses 430
Fable III. The Torch of Liberty 431
Fable IV. The Fly and the Bullock . . . 432
Fable V. Church and State 433
Fable VI. The Little Grand Lama . . . 434
Fable VII. The Extinguishers 436
Fable VIII. Louis Fourteenth's Wig . . . 437

RHYMES ON THE ROAD.

Introductory Rhymes 439
Extract I. 441
Extract II. 441
Extract III. 442
Extract IV. 443
Extract V. 443
Extract VI. 444
Extract VII. 445
Extract VIII. 446
Extract IX. 447
Extract X. 448
Extract XI. 448
Extract XII. 449
Extract XIII. 450
Extract XIV. 452
Extract XV. 454
Extract XVI. 455

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

Occasional Epilogue, spoken by Mr. Corry, in the Character of Vapid, after the Play of the Dramatist, at the Kilkenny Theatre 456
Extract from a Prologue written and spoken by the Author, at the Opening of the Kilkenny Theatre, October, 1809 457
The Sylph's Ball 457
Remonstrance 458
My Birth-day 459
Fancy 459
Song. Fanny, dearest! 459
Translations from Catullus 460
Tibullus to Sulpicia 460
Imitation. From the French 461
Invitation to Dinner, addressed to Lord Lansdowne . 461
Verses to the Poet Crabbe's Inkstand. Written May, 1832 461
To Caroline, Viscountess Valletort. Written at Lacock Abbey, January, 1832 462
A Speculation 463
To My Mother. Written in a Pocket Book 1822 . 463
Love and Hymen 463
Lines on the Entry of the Austrians into Naples, 1821 . 463

THE LOVES OF THE ANGELS.

Page

Preface 464
First Angel's Story 466
Second Angel's Story 471
Third Angel's Story 482

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

Scepticism 486
A Joke versified 486
On the Death of a Friend 486
To James Corry, Esq., on his making me a Present of a Wine Strainer 486
Fragment of a Character 487
What shall I sing Thee? To —— . . . 487
Country Dance and Quadrille 488
Gazel 489
Lines on the Death of Joseph Atkinson, Esq. of Dublin 490
Genius and Criticism 490
To Lady J*r**y, on being asked to write something in her Album 491
To the same, on looking through her Album . . 491

SATIRICAL AND HUMOROUS POEMS.

To Sir Hudson Lowe 491
Amatory Colloquy between Bank and Government . 492
Dialogue between a Sovereign and a One Pound Note 492
An Expostulation to Lord King 493
The Sinking Fund cried 494
Ode to the Goddess Ceres. By Sir Th—m—s L—th—br—e 494
A Hymn of Welcome after the Recess . . . 495
Memorabilia of Last Week 496
All in the Family Way. A new Pastoral Ballad . 496
Ballad for the Cambridge Election . . . 497
Mr. Roger Dodsworth 497
Copy of an intercepted Despatch. From his Excellency Don Strepitoso Diabolo, Envoy Extraordinary to his Satanic Majesty 498
The Millennium. Suggested by the late Work of the Reverend Mr. Irv—ng "on Prophecy" . . . 499
The Three Doctors 499
Epitaph on a Tuft-Hunter 500
Ode to a Hat 500
News for country Cousins 501
A Vision. By the Author of Christabel . . 502
The Petition of the Orangemen of Ireland . . 502
Cotton and Corn. A Dialogue 503
The Canonization of Saint B—tt—rw—rth . . 504
An Incantation. Sung by the Bubble Spirit . . 505
A Dream of Turtle. By Sir W. Curtis . . . 505
The Donkey and his Panniers. A Fable . . 506
Ode to the Sublime Porte 506
Corn and Catholics 507
A Case of Libel 507
Literary Advertisement 508
The Irish Slave 509
Ode to Ferdinand 510
Hat versus Wig 510
The Periwinkles and the Locusts. A Salmagundian Hymn 511
New Creation of Peers. Batch the First . . 512
Speech on the Umbrella Question. By Lord Eld—n . 513
A Pastoral Ballad. By John Bull 513
A late Scene at Swanage 514
Wo! Wo! 514
Tout pour la Tripe 515
Enigma 515
Dog-day Reflections. By a Dandy kept in Town . 516

	Page
The "Living Dog" and the "The Dead Lion"	517
Ode to Don Miguel	517
Thoughts on the present Government of Ireland	518
The Limbo of lost Reputations. A Dream	518
How to write by Proxy	519
Imitation of the Inferno of Dante	520
Lament for the Loss of Lord B—th—st's Tail	521
The Cherries. A Parable	521
Stanzas written in Anticipation of Defeat	522
Ode to the Woods and Forests. By one of the Board	523
Stanzas from the Banks of the Shannon	523
The Annual Pill	524
"If" and "Perhaps"	524
Write on, Write on. A Ballad	525
Song of the departing Spirit of Tithe	525
The Euthanasia of Van	526
To the Reverend . One of the sixteen Requisitionists of Nottingham	527
Irish Antiquities	527
A curious Fact	528
New-fashioned Echoes	528
Incantation. From the New Tragedy of "The Brunswickers"	529
How to make a good Politician	530
Epistle of Condolence. From a Slave-Lord, to a Cotton-Lord	530
The Ghost of Miltiades	531
Alarming Intelligence — Revolution in the Dictionary — One *Galt* at the Head of it	532
Resolutions passed at a late Meeting of Reverends and Right Reverends	532
Sir Andrew's Dream	533
A Blue Love-Song. To Miss ——	534
Sunday Ethics. A Scotch Ode	534
Awful Event	535
The numbering of the Clergy. Parody on Sir Charles Han. Williams's famous Ode	535
A sad Case	536
A Dream of Hindostan	536
The Brunswick Club	537
Proposals for a Gynæcocracy. Addressed to a late Radical Meeting	537
Lord H—nl—y and St. Cecilia	538
Advertisement	539
Missing	539
The Dance of Bishops; or, the Episcopal Quadrille. A Dream	540
Dick ****. A Character	540
A corrected Report of some late Speeches	541
Moral Positions. A Dream	542
The Mad Tory and the Comet. Founded on a late distressing Incident	542
From the Hon. Henry ——, to Lady Emma ——	543
Triumph of Bigotry	544
Translation from the Gull Language	544
Notions on Reform. By a Modern Reformer	545
Tory Pledges	546
St. Jerome on Earth. First Visit	546
St. Jerome on Earth. Second Visit	547
Thoughts on Tar Barrels. (Vide Description of a late Fête)	548
The Consultation	548
To the Rev. Ch-rl-s Ov-rt-n, Curate of Romaldkirk	549
Scene from a Play, acted at Oxford, called "Matriculation"	549
Late Tithe Case	550
Fools' Paradise. Dream the First	550
The Rector and his Curate; or, One Pound Two	551
Paddy's Metamorphosis	552
Cocker, on Church Reform. Founded upon some late Calculations	552
Les Hommes Automates	553
How to make One's Self a Peer. According to the newest Receipt, as disclosed in a late Heraldic Work	553
The Duke is the Lad	554
Epistle from Erasmus on Earth to Cicero in the Shades	554
Lines on the Departure of Lords C—st—r—gh and St—w—rt for the Continent	555
To the Ship in which Lord C—st—r—gh sailed for the Continent	556
Sketch of the First Act of a new Romantic Drama	557
Animal Magnetism	558
The Song of the Box	558
Announcement of a New Thalaba. Addressed to Robert Southey, Esq.	559
Rival Topics. An Extravaganza	560
The Boy Statesman. By a Tory	560
Letter from Larry O'Branigan to the Rev. Murtagh O'Mulligan	561
Musings of an Unreformed Peer	561
The Reverend Pamphleteer. A Romantic Ballad	562
A Recent Dialogue	562
The Wellington Spa	563
A Character	563
A Ghost Story	564
Thoughts on the late destructive Propositions of the Tories. By a Common-Councilman	564
Anticipated Meeting of the British Association in the Year 2836	565
Songs of the Church. No. I.	566
Epistle from Henry of Ex—t—r to John of Tuam	567
Song of Old Puck	567
Police Reports. Case of Imposture	568
Reflections. Addressed to the Author of the Article of the Church in the last Number of the Quarterly Review	569
New Grand Exhibition of Models of the two Houses of Parliament	569
Announcement of a new grand Acceleration Company for the Promotion of the Speed of Literature	570
Some Account of the late Dinner to Dan	571
New Hospital for Sick Literati	572
Religion and Trade	572
Musings, suggested by the late Promotion of Mrs. Nethercoat	573
Intended Tribute to the Author of an Article in the last Number of the Quarterly Review, entitled "Romanism in Ireland"	573
Grand Dinner of Type and Co. A poor Poet's Dream	574
Church Extension	575
Latest Accounts from Olympus	576
The Triumphs of Farce	576
Thoughts on Patrons, Puffs, and other Matters. In an Epistle from T. M. to S. R.	577
Thoughts on Mischief. By Lord St—nl—y. (His first Attempt in Verse)	578
Epistle from Captain Rock to Lord L—ndh—t	579
Captain Rock in London. Letter from the Captain to Terry Alt, Esq.	580

THE FUDGES IN ENGLAND;

BEING A SEQUEL TO THE "FUDGE FAMILY IN PARIS."

Preface	581
Letter I. From Patrick Magan, Esq., to the Rev. Richard ——, Curate of ——, in Ireland	581
Letter II. From Miss Biddy Fudge, to Mrs. Elizabeth ——	582
Letter III. From Miss Fanny Fudge, to her Cousin, Miss Kitty ——. Stanzas (inclosed) to my Shadow; or, Why?—What?—How?	585
Letter IV. From Patrick Magan, Esq. to the Rev. Richard ——	587

Page

Letter V. From Larry O'Branigan, in England, to his Wife Judy, at Mullinafad 588
Letter VI. From Miss Biddy Fudge, to Mrs. Elizabeth ——— 590
Letter VII. From Miss Fanny Fudge, to her Cousin, Miss Kitty ———. Irregular Ode 593
Letter VIII. From Bob Fudge, Esq., to the Rev. Mortimer O'Mulligan 594
Letter IX. From Larry O'Branigan to his Wife, Judy 596
Letter X. From the Rev. Mortimer O'Mulligan, to the Rev. ——— 598
Letter XI. From Patrick Magan, Esq. to the Rev. Richard ——— 599

SONGS FROM M. P.; OR, THE BLUE STOCKING.

Songs 600, 601
Boat Glee 601
Cupid's Lottery 601
Song 602

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

Page

At night 602
To Lady Holland. On Napoleon's Legacy of a Snuff-Box 602
Epilogue. Written for Lady Dacre's Tragedy of Ina . 602
The Day-Dream 603
Song 604
Song of the Poco-curante Society 604
Anne Boleyn. Translation from the metrical "Histoire d'Anne Boleyn" 604
The Dream of the Two Sisters. From Dante . . 605
Sovereign Woman. A Ballad 605
Come, play me that simple Air again. A Ballad . 605

THE EPICURIAN: A TALE 606

ALCIPHRON: A FRAGMENT 667

GENERAL INDEX 681

PREFACES

TO

THE COLLECTED EDITION OF TEN VOLUMES,

PUBLISHED IN 1841, 1842.

PREFACE

TO

THE FIRST VOLUME.

FINDING it to be the wish of my Publishers that at least the earlier volumes of this collection should each be accompanied by some prefatory matter, illustrating, by a few biographical memoranda, the progress of my humble literary career, I have consented, though not, I confess, without some scruple and hesitation, to comply with their request. In no country is there so much curiosity felt respecting the interior of the lives of public men as in England; but, on the other hand, in no country is he who ventures to tell his own story so little safe from the imputation of vanity and self-display.

The whole of the poems contained in the first, as well as in the greater part of the second, volume of this collection were written between the sixteenth and the twenty-third year of the author's age. But I had begun still earlier, not only to rhyme but to publish. A sonnet to my schoolmaster, Mr. Samuel Whyte, written in my fourteenth year, appeared at the time in a Dublin magazine, called the Anthologia,—the first, and, I fear, almost only, creditable attempt in periodical literature of which Ireland has to boast. I had even at an earlier period (1793) sent to this magazine two short pieces of verse, prefaced by a note to the editor, requesting the insertion of the "following attempts of a youthful muse;" and the fear and trembling with which I ventured upon this step were agreeably dispelled, not only by the appearance of the contributions, but still more by my finding myself, a few months after, hailed as "Our esteemed correspondent, T. M."

It was in the pages of this publication,—where the whole of the poem was extracted,—that I first met with the Pleasures of Memory; and to this day, when I open the volume of the Anthologia which contains it, the very form of the type and colour of the paper brings back vividly to my mind the delight with which I first read that poem.

My schoolmaster, Mr. Whyte, though amusingly vain, was a good and kind-hearted man; and, as a teacher of public reading and elocution, had long enjoyed considerable reputation. Nearly thirty years before I became his pupil, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, then about eight or nine years of age, had been placed by Mrs. Sheridan under his care*; and, strange to say, was, after about a year's trial, pronounced, both by tutor and parent, to be "an incorrigible dunce." Among those who took lessons from him as private pupils were several young ladies of rank, belonging to some of those great Irish families who still continued to lend to Ireland the enlivening influence of their presence, and made their country-seats, through a great part of the year, the scenes of

* Some confused notion of this fact has led the writer of a Memoir prefixed to the "Pocket Edition" of my Poems, printed at Zwickau, to state that Brinsley Sheridan was my tutor!—"Great attention was paid to his education by his tutor, Sheridan."

refined as well as hospitable festivity. The Miss Montgomerys, to whose rare beauty the pencil of Sir Joshua has given immortality, were among those whom my worthy preceptor most boasted of as pupils; and his description of them, I remember, long haunted my boyish imagination, as though they were not earthly women, but some spiritual "creatures of the element."

About thirty or forty years before the period of which I am speaking, an eager taste for private theatrical performances had sprung up among the higher ranks of society in Ireland; and at Carton, the seat of the Duke of Leinster, at Castletown, Marley, and other great houses, private plays were got up, of which, in most instances, the superintendence was entrusted to Mr. Whyte, and in general the prologue, or the epilogue, contributed by his pen. At Marley, the seat of the Latouches, where the masque of Comus was performed in the year 1776, while my old master supplied the prologue, no less distinguished a hand than that of our "ever-glorious Grattan*," furnished the epilogue. This relic of his pen, too, is the more memorable, as being, I believe, the only poetical composition he was ever known to produce.

At the time when I first began to attend his school, Mr. Whyte still continued, to the no small alarm of many parents, to encourage a taste for acting among his pupils. In this line I was long his favourite *show*-scholar; and among the play-bills introduced in his volume, to illustrate the occasions of his own prologues and epilogues, there is one of a play got up in the year 1790, at Lady Borrowes's private theatre in Dublin, where, among the items of the evening's entertainment, is "An Epilogue, *A Squeeze to St. Paul's*, Master Moore."

With acting, indeed, is associated the very first attempt at verse-making to which my memory enables me to plead guilty. It was at a period, I think, even earlier than the date last mentioned, that, while passing the summer holidays, with a number of other young people, at one of those bathing-places, in the neighbourhood of Dublin, which afford such fresh and healthful retreats to its inhabitants, it was proposed among us that we should combine together in some theatrical performance; and the Poor Soldier and a Harlequin Pantomime being the entertainments agreed upon, the parts of Patrick and the Motley hero fell to my share. I was also encouraged to write and recite an appropriate epilogue on the occasion; and the following lines, alluding to our speedy return to school, and remarkable only for their having lived so long in my memory, formed part of this juvenile effort:—

> Our Pantaloon, who did so aged look,
> Must now resume his youth, his task, his book:
> Our Harlequin, who skipp'd, laugh'd, danc'd and died,
> Must now stand trembling by his master's side.

I have thus been led back, step by step, from an early date to one still earlier, with the view of ascertaining, for those who take any interest in literary biography, at what period I first showed an aptitude for the now common craft of verse-making; and the result is—so far back in childhood lies the epoch—that I am really unable to say at what age I first began to act, sing, and rhyme.

To these different talents, such as they were, the gay and social habits prevailing in Dublin afforded frequent opportunities of display; while, at home, a most amiable father, and a mother such as in heart and head has rarely been equalled, furnished me with that purest stimulus to exertion — the desire to please those whom we, at once, most love and most respect. It was, I think, a year or two after my entrance into college, that a masque written by myself, and of which I had adapted one of the songs to the air of Hadyn's Spirit-Song, was acted, under our own humble roof in Aungier Street, by my elder sister, myself, and one or two other young persons. The little drawing-room over the shop was our grand place of representation, and young ——, now an eminent professor of music in Dublin, enacted for us the part of orchestra at the piano-forte.

It will be seen from all this, that, however imprudent and premature was my first appearance in the London world as an author, it is only lucky that I had not much earlier assumed that responsible character; in which case the public would probably have treated my nursery productions in much the same manner in which that sensible critic, my Uncle Toby, would have disposed of the "work which the great Lipsius produced on the day he was born."

* Byron.

While thus the turn I had so early shown for rhyme and song was, by the gay and sociable circle in which I lived, called so encouragingly into play, a far deeper feeling—and, I should hope, power—was at the same time awakened in me by the mighty change then working in the political aspect of Europe, and the stirring influence it had begun to exercise on the spirit and hopes of Ireland. Born of Catholic parents, I had come into the world with the slave's yoke around my neck; and it was all in vain that the fond ambition of a mother looked forward to the Bar as opening a career that might lead her son to honour and affluence. Against the young Papist all such avenues to distinction were closed; and even the University, the professed source of public education, was to him "a fountain sealed." Can any one now wonder that a people thus wronged and trampled upon should have hailed the first dazzling outbreak of the French Revolution as a signal to the slave, wherever suffering, that the day of his deliverance was near at hand. I remember being taken by my father (1792) to one of the dinners given in honour of that great event, and sitting upon the knee of the chairman while the following toast was enthusiastically sent round:—"May the breezes from France fan our Irish Oak into verdure."

In a few months after was passed the memorable Act of 1793, sweeping away some of the most monstrous of the remaining sanctions of the penal code; and I was myself among the first of the young Helots of the land, who hastened to avail themselves of the new privilege of being educated in their country's university,—though still excluded from all share in those college honours and emoluments by which the ambition of the youths of the ascendant class was stimulated and rewarded. As I well knew that, next to my attaining some of these distinctions, my showing that I *deserved* to attain them would most gratify my anxious mother, I entered as candidate for a scholarship, and (as far as the result of the examination went) successfully. But, of course, the mere barren credit of the effort was all I enjoyed for my pains.

It was in this year (1794), or about the beginning of the next, that I remember having, for the first time, tried my hand at political satire. In their very worst times of slavery and suffering, the happy disposition of my countrymen had kept their cheerfulness still unbroken and buoyant; and, at the period of which I am speaking, the hope of a brighter day dawning upon Ireland had given to the society of the middle classes in Dublin a more than usual flow of hilarity and life. Among other gay results of this festive spirit, a club, or society, was instituted by some of our most convivial citizens, one of whose objects was to burlesque, good-humouredly, the forms and pomps of royalty With this view they established a sort of mock kingdom, of which Dalkey, a small island near Dublin, was made the seat, and an eminent pawnbroker, named Stephen Armitage, much renowned for his agreeable singing, was the chosen and popular monarch.

Before public affairs had become too serious for such pastime, it was usual to celebrate, yearly, at Dalkey, the day of this sovereign's accession; and, among the gay scenes that still live in my memory, there are few it recalls with more freshness than the celebration, on a fine Sunday in summer, of one of these anniversaries of King Stephen's coronation. The picturesque sea-views from that spot, the gay crowds along the shores, the innumerable boats, full of life, floating about, and, above all, that true spirit of mirth which the Irish temperament never fails to lend to such meetings, rendered the whole a scene not easily forgotten. The state ceremonies of the day were performed, with all due gravity, within the ruins of an ancient church that stands on the island, where his mock majesty bestowed the order of knighthood upon certain favoured personages, and among others, I recollect, upon Incledon, the celebrated singer, who arose from under the touch of the royal sword with the appropriate title of Sir Charles Melody. There was also selected, for the favours of the crown on that day, a lady of no ordinary poetic talent, Mrs. Battier, who had gained much fame by some spirited satires in the manner of Churchill, and whose kind encouragement of my early attempts in versification were to me a source of much pride. This lady, as was officially announced, in the course of the day, had been appointed his majesty's poetess laureate, under the style and title of Henrietta, Countess of Laurel.

There could hardly have been devised an apter vehicle for lively political satire than this gay travesty of monarchical power, and its showy appurtenances, so temptingly supplied. The very day, indeed, after this commemoration, there appeared, in the Dalkey state-gazette, an amusing proclamation from the king, offering a large reward, in *cromebanes**, to the finder or finders of his majesty's crown, which, owing to his "having measured both sides of the road" in his pedestrian progress on the preceding night, had unluckily fallen from the royal brow.

It is not to be wondered at, that whatever natural turn I may have possessed for the lighter skirmishing of satire should have been called into play by so pleasant a field for its exercise as the state affairs of the Dalkey kingdom afforded; and, accordingly, my first attempt in this line was an Ode to his Majesty, King Stephen, contrasting the happy state of security in which he lived among his merry lieges, with the "metal coach," and other such precautions against mob violence, which were said to have been adopted at that time by his royal brother of England. Some portions of this juvenile squib still live in my memory; but they fall far too short of the lively demands of the subject to be worth preserving, even as juvenilia.

In college, the first circumstance that drew any attention to my rhyming powers was my giving in a theme, in English verse, at one of the quarterly examinations. As the sort of short essays required on those occasions were considered, in general, as a mere matter of form, and were written, invariably, I believe, in Latin prose, the appearance of a theme in English verse could hardly fail to attract some notice. It was, therefore, with no small anxiety that, when the moment for judging of the themes arrived, I saw the examiners of the different divisions assemble, as usual, at the bottom of the hall for that purpose. Still more trying was it when I perceived that the reverend inquisitor, in whose hands was my fate, had left the rest of the awful group, and was bending his steps towards the table where I was seated. Leaning across to me, he asked suspiciously, whether the verses which I had just given in were my own; and, on my answering in the affirmative, added these cheering words, "They do you great credit; and I shall not fail to recommend them to the notice of the Board." This result of a step, ventured upon with some little fear and scruple, was of course very gratifying to me; and the premium I received from the Board was a well-bound copy of the Travels of Anacharsis, together with a certificate, stating, in not very lofty Latin, that this reward had been conferred upon me, "propter laudabilem in versibus componendis progressum."

The idea of attempting a version of some of the Songs or Odes of Anacreon had very early occurred to me; and a specimen of my first ventures in this undertaking may be found in the Dublin Magazine already referred to, where, in the number of that work for February, 1794, appeared a "Paraphrase of Anacreon's Fifth Ode, by T. Moore." As it may not be uninteresting to future and better translators of the poet to compare this schoolboy experiment with my later and more laboured version of the same ode, I shall here extract the specimen found in the Anthologia:—

"Let us, with the clustering vine,
The rose, Love's blushing flower, entwine.
Fancy's hand our chaplet's wreathing,
Vernal sweets around us breathing,
We'll gaily drink, full goblets quaffing,
At frighted Care securely laughing.

"Rose! thou balmy-scented flower,
Rear'd by Spring's most fostering power,
Thy dewy blossoms, opening bright,
To gods themselves can give delight;
And Cypria's child, with roses crown'd,
Trips with each Grace the mazy round,

"Bind my brows,—I'll tune the lyre,
Love my rapturous strains shall fire,
Near Bacchus' grape-encircled shrine,
While roses fresh my brows entwine,
Led by the winged train of Pleasures,
I'll dance with nymphs to sportive measures."

In pursuing further this light task, the only object I had for some time in view was to lay before the Board a select number of the odes I had then translated, with a hope,—suggested by the kind encouragement I had already received,—that they might be considered as deserving of some honour or reward. Having experienced much hospitable attention from Doctor Kearney, one of the senior fellows†, a man of most amiable character, as well as of refined scholarship, I submitted to his perusal

* Irish halfpence, so called.

† Appointed Provost of the University in the year 1799, and made afterwards Bishop of Ossory.

the manuscript of my translation as far as it had then proceeded, and requested his advice respecting my intention of laying it before the Board. On this latter point his opinion was such as, with a little more thought, I might have anticipated, namely, that he did not see how the Board of the University could lend their sanction, by any public reward, to writings so convivial and amatory as were almost all those of Anacreon. He very good-naturedly, however, lauded my translation, and advised me to complete and publish it; adding, I well recollect, "young people will like it." I was also indebted to him for the use, during my task, of Spaletti's curious publication, giving a facsimile of those pages of a MS. in the Vatican Library which contain the Odes, or "Symposiacs," attributed to Anacreon.* And here I shall venture to add a few passing words on a point which I once should have thought it profanation to question,—the authenticity of these poems. The cry raised against their genuineness by Robertellus and other enemies of Henry Stephen, when that eminent scholar first introduced them to the learned world, may be thought to have long since entirely subsided, leaving their claim to so ancient a paternity safe and unquestioned. But I am forced, however reluctantly, to confess that there appear to me strong grounds for pronouncing these light and beautiful lyrics to be merely modern fabrications. Some of the reasons that incline me to adopt this unwelcome conclusion are thus clearly stated by the same able scholar, to whom I am indebted for the emendations of my own juvenile Greek ode:—"I do not see how it is possible, if Anacreon had written chiefly in Iambic dimeter verse, that Horace should have wholly neglected that metre. I may add that, of those fragments of Anacreon, of whose genuineness, from internal evidence, there can be no doubt, almost all are written in one or other of the lighter Horatian metres, and scarcely one in Iambic dimeter verse. This may be seen by looking through the list in Fischer."

The unskilful attempt at Greek verse from my own pen, which is found prefixed to the Translation, was intended originally to illustrate a picture, representing Anacreon conversing with the Goddess of Wisdom, from which the frontispiece to the first edition of the work was taken. Had I been brought up with a due fear of the laws of prosody before my eyes, I certainly should not have dared to submit so untutored a production to the criticism of the trained prosodians of the English schools. At the same time, I cannot help adding that, as far as music, distinct from metre, is concerned, I am much inclined to prefer the ode as originally written to its present corrected shape; and that, at all events, I entertain but very little doubt as to *which* of the two a composer would most willingly set to music.

For the means of collecting the materials of the notes appended to the Translation, I was chiefly indebted to the old library adjoining St. Patrick's Cathedral, called, from the name of the archbishop who founded it, Marsh's Library. Through my acquaintance with the deputy librarian, the Rev. Mr Cradock, I enjoyed the privilege of constant access to this collection, even at that period of the year when it is always closed to the public. On these occasions I used to be locked in there alone; and to the many solitary hours which, both at the time I am now speaking of and subsequently, I passed in hunting through the dusty tomes of this old library, I owe much of that odd and out-of-the-way sort of reading which may be found scattered through some of my earlier writings.

Early in the year 1799, while yet in my nineteenth year, I left Ireland, for the first time, and proceeded to London, with the two not very congenial objects, of keeping my terms at the Middle Temple, and publishing, by subscription, my Translation of Anacreon. One of those persons to whom, through the active zeal of friends, some part of my manuscript had been submitted before it went to press,

* When the monument to Provost Baldwin, which stands in the hall of the College of Dublin, arrived from Italy, there came in the same packing-case with it two copies of this work of Spaletti, one of which was presented by Dr. Troy, the Roman Catholic Archbishop, as a gift from the Pope to the Library of the University, and the other (of which I was subsequently favoured with the use) he presented, in like manner, to my friend, Dr. Kearney. Thus, curiously enough, while Anacreon *in English* was considered—and, I grant, on no unreasonable grounds—as a work to which grave collegiate authorities could not openly lend their sanction, Anacreon *in Greek* was thought no unfitting present to be received by a Protestant bishop, through the medium of a Catholic archbishop, from the hands of his holiness, the Pope.

was Doctor Laurence, the able friend of Burke; and, as an instance, however slight, of that ready variety of learning — as well the lightest as the most solid — for which Laurence was so remarkable, the following extract from the letter written by him, in returning the manuscript to my friend Dr. Hume, may not be without some interest:—

"Dec. 20. 1799.

"I return you the four odes which you were so kind to communicate for my poor opinion. They are, in many parts, very elegant and poetical; and, in some passages, Mr. Moore has added a pretty turn not to be found in the original. To confess the truth, however, they are, in not a few places, rather more paraphrastical than suits my notion (perhaps an incorrect notion) of translation.

"In the fifty-third ode there is, in my judgment, a no less sound than beautiful emendation suggested — would you suppose it? — by a Dutch lawyer. Mr. M. possibly may not be aware of it. I have endeavoured to express the sense of it in a couplet interlined with pencil. Will you allow me to add, that I am not certain whether the translation has not missed the meaning, too, in the former part of that passage which seems to me to intend a distinction and climax of pleasure:—'It is sweet even to prove it among the briery paths; it is sweet again, plucking, to cherish with tender hands, and carry to the fair, the flower of love.' This is nearly literal, including the conjectural correction of Mynheer Medenbach. If this be right, instead of

'Tis sweet to dare the tangled fence,'

I would propose something to this effect:—

'Tis sweet the rich perfume to prove,
As by the dewy bush you rove;
'Tis sweet to dare the tangled fence,
To cull the timid beauty thence,
To wipe with tender hands away
The tears that on its blushes lay; *
Then, to the bosom of the fair,
The flower of love in triumph bear.

"I would *drop* altogether the image of the stems '*dropping with gems.*' I believe it is a confused and false metaphor, unless the painter should take the figure of Aurora from Mrs. Hastings.

"There is another emendation of the same critic, in the following line, which Mr. M. may seem, by accident, to have sufficiently expressed in the phrase of 'roses shed their *light.*'

"I scribble this in very great haste, but fear that you and Mr. Moore will find me too long, minute, and impertinent. Believe me to be, very sincerely,

"Your obedient, humble servant,

"F. Laurence."

* Query, if it ought not to be *lie?* The line might run,
With tender hand the tears to brush,
That give new softness to its blush (or, its flush).

PREFACE
TO
THE SECOND VOLUME.

The Poems suggested to me by my visit to Bermuda, in the year 1803, as well as by the tour which I made subsequently, through some parts of North America, have been hitherto very injudiciously arranged; — any distinctive character they may possess having been disturbed and confused by their being mixed up not only with trifles of a much earlier date, but also with some portions of a classical story, in the form of Letters, which I had made some progress in before my departure from England. In the present edition, this awkward jumble has been remedied; and all the Poems relating to my Transatlantic voyage will be found classed by themselves. As, in like manner, the line of route by which I proceeded through some parts of the States and the Canadas, has been left hitherto to be traced confusedly through a few detached notes, I have thought that, to future readers of these poems, some clearer account of the course of that journey might not be unacceptable, — together with such vestiges as may still linger in my memory of events now fast fading into the back ground of time.

For the precise date of my departure from England, in the Phaeton frigate, I am indebted to the Naval Recollections of Captain Scott, then a midshipman of that ship. "We were soon ready," says this gentleman, "for sea, and a few days saw Mr. Merry and suite embarked on board. Mr. Moore likewise took his passage

with us on his way to Bermuda. We quitted Spithead on the 25th of September (1803), and in a short week lay becalmed under the lofty peak of Pico. In this situation the Phaeton is depicted in the frontispiece of Moore's Poems."

During the voyage, I dined very frequently with the officers of the gun-room; and it was not a little gratifying to me to learn, from this gentleman's volume, that the cordial regard these social and open-hearted men inspired in me was not wholly unreturned on their part. After mentioning our arrival at Norfolk, in Virginia, Captain Scott says, "Mr. and Mrs. Merry left the Phaeton, under the usual salute, accompanied by Mr. Moore;"— then, adding some kind compliments on the score of talents, &c., he concludes with a sentence which it gave me tenfold more pleasure to read,—"The gun-room mess witnessed the day of his departure with genuine sorrow." From Norfolk, after a stay of about ten days, under the hospitable roof of the British Consul, Colonel Hamilton, I proceeded, in the Driver sloop of war, to Bermuda.

There was then on that station another youthful sailor, who has since earned for himself a distinguished name among English writers of travels, Captain Basil Hall, — then a midshipman on board the Leander. In his Fragments of Voyages and Travels, this writer has called up some agreeable reminiscences of that period; in perusing which, — so full of life and reality are his sketches, — I found all my own naval recollections brought freshly to my mind. The very names of the different ships, then so familiar to my ears, — the Leander, the Boston, the Cambrian, — transported me back to the season of youth and those Summer Isles once more.

The testimony borne by so competent a witness as Captain Hall to the truth of my sketches of the beautiful scenery of Bermuda is of far too much value to me, in my capacity of traveller, to be here omitted by me, however conscious of but ill deserving the praise he lavishes on me, as a poet. Not that I mean to pretend indifference to such kind tributes; — on the contrary, those are always the most alive to praise, who feel inwardly least confidence in the soundness of their own title to it. In the present instance, however, my vanity (for so this uneasy feeling is always called) seeks its food in a different direction. It is not as a poet I invoke the aid of Captain Hall's opinion, but as a traveller and observer; it is not to my invention I ask him to bear testimony, but to my matter-of-fact.

"The most pleasing and most exact description which I know of Bermuda," says this gentleman, "is to be found in Moore's Odes and Epistles, a work published many years ago. The reason why his account excels in beauty as well as in precision that of other men probably is, that the scenes described lie so much beyond the scope of ordinary observation in colder climates, and the feelings which they excite in the beholder are so much higher than those produced by the scenery we have been accustomed to look at, that, unless the imagination be deeply drawn upon, and the diction sustained at a correspondent pitch, the words alone strike the ear, while the listener's fancy remains where it was. In Moore's account there is not only no exaggeration, but, on the contrary, a wonderful degree of temperance in the midst of a feast which to his rich fancy must have been peculiarly tempting. He has contrived by a magic peculiarly his own, yet without departing from the truth, to sketch what was before him with a fervour which those who have never been on the spot might well be excused for setting down as the sport of the poet's invention." *

How truly politic it is in a poet to connect his verse with well-known and interesting localities, — to wed his song to scenes already invested with fame, and thus lend it a chance of sharing the charm which encircles them, — I have myself, in more than one instance, very agreeably experienced. Among the memorials of this description, which, as I learn with pleasure and pride, still keep me remembered in some of those beautiful regions of the West which I visited, I shall mention but one slight instance, as showing how potently the Genius of the Place may lend to song a life and imperishableness to which, in itself, it boasts no claim or pretension. The following lines in one of my Bermudian poems,

> 'Twas there, in the shade of the Calabash Tree,
> With a few who could feel and remember like me,

still live in memory, I am told, on those fairy

* Fragments of Voyages and Travels, vol. ii. chap. vi.

shores, connecting my name with the picturesque spot they describe, and the noble old tree which I believe still adorns it.* One of the few treasures (of *any* kind) I can boast the possession of, is a goblet formed of one of the fruit-shells of this remarkable tree, which was brought from Bermuda, a few years since, by Mr. Dudley Costello, and which that gentleman, having had it tastefully mounted as a goblet, very kindly presented to me; the following words being part of the inscription which it bears:—"To Thomas Moore, Esq., this cup, formed of a calabash which grew on the tree that bears his name, near Walsingham, Bermuda, is inscribed by one who," &c. &c.

From Bermuda I proceeded in the Boston, with my friend Captain (now Admiral) J. E. Douglas, to New York, from whence, after a short stay, we sailed for Norfolk, in Virginia; and about the beginning of June, 1804, I set out from that city on a tour through part of the States. At Washington, I passed some days with the English minister, Mr. Merry; and was, by him, presented at the levee of the President, Jefferson, whom I found sitting with General Dearborn and one or two other officers, and in the same homely costume, comprising slippers and Connemara stockings, in which Mr. Merry had been received by him—much to that formal minister's horror—when waiting upon him, in full dress, to deliver his credentials. My single interview with this remarkable person was of very short duration; but to have seen and spoken with the man who drew up the Declaration of American Independence was an event not to be forgotten.

At Philadelphia, the society I was chiefly made acquainted with, and to which (as the verses addressed to "Delaware's green banks"† sufficiently testify) I was indebted for some of my most agreeable recollections of the United States, consisted entirely of persons of the Federalist or Anti-Democratic party. Few and transient, too, as had been my opportunities, of judging for myself of the political or social state of the country, my mind was left open too much to the influence of the feelings and prejudices of those I chiefly consorted with; and, certainly, in no quarter was I so sure to find decided hostility, both to the men and the principles then dominant throughout the Union, as among officers of the British navy, and in the ranks of an angry Federalist opposition. For any bias, therefore, that, under such circumstances, my opinions and feelings may be thought to have received, full allowance, of course, is to be made in appraising the weight due to my authority on the subject. All I can answer for, is the perfect sincerity and earnestness of the actual impressions, whether true or erroneous, under which my Epistles from the United States were written; and so strong, at the time, I confess, were those impressions, that it was the only period of my past life during which I have found myself at all sceptical as to the soundness of that Liberal creed of politics, in the profession and advocacy of which I may be almost literally said to have begun life, and shall most probably end it.

Reaching, for the second time, New York, I set out from thence on the now familiar and easy enterprise of visiting the Falls of Niagara. It is but too true, of all grand objects, whether in nature or art, that facility of access to them much diminishes the feeling of reverence they ought to inspire. Of this fault, however, the route to Niagara, at that period—at least the portion of it which led through the Genesee country—could not justly be accused. The latter part of the journey, which lay chiefly through yet but half-cleared wood, we were obliged to perform on foot; and a slight accident I met with, in the course of our rugged walk, laid me up for some days at Buffalo. To the rapid growth, in that wonderful region, of, at least, the materials of civilization,—however ultimately they may be turned to account,—this flourishing town, which stands on Lake Erie, bears most ample testimony. Though little better, at the time when I visited it, than a mere village, consisting chiefly of huts and wigwams, it is now, by all accounts, a populous and splendid city, with five or six churches, town-hall, theatre, and other such appurtenances of a capital.

In adverting to the comparatively rude state of Buffalo, at that period, I should be ungrate-

* A representation of this calabash, taken from a drawing of it made on the spot, by Dr. Savage of the Royal Artillery, has been introduced in the vignette prefixed to the second volume of the edition in ten volumes.

† See Epistle to Mr. W. R. Spencer, p. 125. of this edition.

ful were I to omit mentioning, that, even then, on the shores of those far lakes, the title of "Poet,"—however unworthily in that instance bestowed,—bespoke a kind and distinguishing welcome for its wearer; and that the Captain who commanded the packet in which I crossed Lake Ontario *, in addition to other marks of courtesy, begged, on parting with me, to be allowed to decline payment for my passage.

When we arrived, at length, at the inn, in the neighbourhood of the Falls, it was too late to think of visiting them that evening; and I lay awake almost the whole night with the sound of the cataract in my ears. The day following I consider as a sort of era in my life; and the first glimpse I caught of that wonderful cataract gave me a feeling which nothing in this world can ever awaken again.† It was through an opening among the trees, as we approached the spot where the full view of the Falls was to burst upon us, that I caught this glimpse of the mighty mass of waters folding smoothly over the edge of the precipice; and so overwhelming was the notion it gave me of the awful spectacle I was approaching, that, during the short interval that followed, imagination had far outrun the reality; and, vast and wonderful as was the scene that then opened upon me, my first feeling was that of disappointment. It would have been impossible, indeed, for any thing real to come up to the vision I had, in these few seconds, formed of it; and those awful scriptural words, "The fountains of the great deep were broken up," can alone give any notion of the vague wonders for which I was prepared.

But, in spite of the start thus got by imagination, the triumph of reality was, in the end, but the greater; for the gradual glory of the scene that opened upon me soon took possession of my whole mind; presenting, from day to day, some new beauty or wonder, and, like all that is most sublime in nature or art, awakening sad as well as elevating thoughts. I retain in my memory but one other dream—for such do events so long past appear—which can in any respect be associated with the grand vision I have just been describing; and, however different the nature of their appeals to the imagination, I should find it difficult to say on which occasion I felt most deeply affected, when looking on the Falls of Niagara, or when standing by moonlight among the ruins of the Coliseum.

Some changes, I understand, injurious to the beauty of the scene, have taken place in the shape of the Falls since the time of my visit to them; and among these is the total disappearance, by the gradual crumbling away of the rock, of the small leafy island which then stood near the edge of the Great Fall, and whose tranquillity and unapproachableness, in the midst of so much turmoil, lent it an interest which I thus tried to avail myself of, in a Song of the Spirit of that region ‡:—

> There, amid the island-sedge,
> Just above the cataract's edge,
> Where the foot of living man
> Never trod since time began,
> Lone I sit at close of day, &c. &c.

Another characteristic feature of the vicinity of the Falls, which, I understand, no longer exists, was the interesting settlement of the Tuscarora Indians. With the gallant Brock§, who then commanded at Fort George, I passed the greater part of my time during the few weeks I remained at Niagara; and a visit I paid to these Indians, in company with him and his brother officers, on his going to distribute among them the customary presents and prizes, was not the least curious of the many new scenes I witnessed. These people received us in all their ancient costume. The young men exhibited for our amusement in the race, the bat-game, and other sports, while the old and the women sat in groups under the surrounding trees; and the whole scene was as picturesque and beautiful as it was new to me. It is said that West, the American painter, when he first saw the Apollo, at Rome, exclaimed instantly, "A young Indian warrior!"—and, however startling the association may

* The Commodore of the Lakes, as he is styled.

† The two first sentences of the above paragraph, as well as a passage that occurs in the subsequent column, stood originally as part of the Notes on one of the American Poems.

‡ Introduced in the Epistle to Lady Charlotte Rawdon, p. 128. of this edition.

§ This brave and amiable officer was killed at Queenston, in Upper Canada, soon after the commencement of the war with America, in the year 1812. He was in the act of cheering on his men when he fell. The inscription on the monument raised to his memory, on Queenston Heights, does but due honour to his manly character.

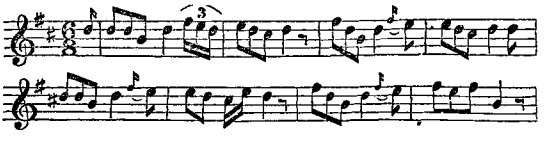
appear, some of the graceful and agile forms which I saw that day among the Tuscaroras were such as would account for its arising in the young painter's mind.

After crossing "the fresh-water ocean" of Ontario, I passed down the St. Lawrence to Montreal and Quebec, staying for a short time at each of these places; and this part of my journey, as well as my voyage on from Quebec to Halifax, is sufficiently traceable through the few pieces of poetry that were suggested to me by scenes and events on the way. And here I must again venture to avail myself of the valuable testimony of Captain Hall to the truth of my descriptions of some of those scenes through which his more practised eye followed me;—taking the liberty to omit in my extracts, as far as may be done without injury to the style or context, some of that generous surplusage of praise in which friendly criticism delights to indulge.

In speaking of an excursion he had made up the river Ottawa,—"a stream," he adds, "which has a classical place in every one's imagination from Moore's Canadian Boat Song," Captain Hall proceeds as follows:—"While the poet above alluded to has retained all that is essentially characteristic and pleasing in these boat songs, and rejected all that is not so, he has contrived to borrow his inspiration from numerous surrounding circumstances, presenting nothing remarkable to the dull senses of ordinary travellers. Yet these highly poetical images, drawn in this way, as it were carelessly and from every hand, he has combined with such graphic—I had almost said geographical—truth, that the effect is great, even upon those who have never, with their own eyes, seen the 'Utawa's tide,' nor 'flown down the Rapids,' nor heard the 'bell of St. Anne's toll its evening chime;' while the same lines give to distant regions, previously consecrated in our imagination, a vividness of interest, when viewed on the spot, of which it is difficult to say how much is due to the magic of the poetry, and how much to the beauty of the real scene." *

While on the subject of the Canadian Boat Song, an anecdote connected with that once popular ballad may, for my musical readers at least, possess some interest. A few years since, while staying in Dublin, I was presented, at his own request, to a gentleman who told me that his family had in their possession a curious relic of my youthful days,—being the first notation I had made, in pencilling, of the air and words of the Canadian Boat Song, while on my way down the St. Lawrence,—and that it was their wish I should add my signature to attest the authenticity of the autograph. I assured him with truth that I had wholly forgotten even the existence of such a memorandum; that it would be as much a curiosity to myself as it could be to any one else, and that I should feel thankful to be allowed to see it. In a day or two after, my request was complied with, and the following is the history of this musical "relic."

In my passage down the St. Lawrence, I had with me two travelling companions, one of whom, named Harkness, the son of a wealthy Dublin merchant, has been some years dead. To this young friend, on parting with him, at Quebec, I gave, as a keepsake, a volume I had been reading on the way,—Priestley's Lectures on History; and it was upon a fly-leaf of this volume I found I had taken down, in pencilling, both the notes and a few of the words of the original song by which my own boat-glee had been suggested. The following is the form of my memorandum of the original air:—



Then follows, as pencilled down at the same moment, the first verse of my Canadian Boat Song, with air and words as they are at present. From all this it will be perceived, that, in my own setting of the air, I departed in almost every respect but the time from the strain our *voyageurs* had sung to us, leaving the music of the glee nearly as much my own as the words.

* "It is singularly gratifying," the author adds, "to discover that, to this hour, the Canadian *voyageurs* never omit their offerings to the shrine of St. Anne, before engaging in any enterprise; and that during its performance, they omit no opportunity of keeping up so propitious an intercourse. The flourishing village which surrounds the church on the 'Green Isle' in question owes its existence and support entirely to these pious contributions."

Yet, how strongly impressed I had become with the notion that this was the identical air sung by the boatmen, — how closely it linked itself in my imagination with the scenes and sounds amidst which it had occurred to me, — may be seen by reference to a note appended to the glee as first published, which will be found in the following pages.*

To the few desultory and, perhaps, valueless recollections I have thus called up, respecting the contents of our second volume, I have only to add, that the heavy storm of censure and criticism — some of it, I fear, but too well deserved — which, both in America and in England, the publication of my "Odes and Epistles" drew down upon me, was followed by results which have far more than compensated for any pain such attacks at the time may have inflicted. In the most formidable of all my censors, at that period, — the great master of the art of criticism, in our day, — I have found ever since one of the most cordial and highly valued of all my friends; while the good-will I have experienced from more than one distinguished American sufficiently assures me that any injustice I may have done to that land of freemen, if not long since wholly forgotten, is now remembered only to be forgiven.

As some consolation to me for the onsets of criticism, I received, shortly after the appearance of my volume, a letter from Stockholm, addressed to "the author of Epistles, Odes, and other poems," and informing me that "the Princes, Nobles, and Gentlemen, who composed the General Chapter of the most Illustrious, Equestrian, Secular, and Chapteral Order of St. Joachim," had elected me as a Knight of this Order. Notwithstanding the grave and official style of the letter, I regarded it, I own, at first, as a mere ponderous piece of pleasantry; and even suspected that in the name of St. "Joachim" I could detect the low and irreverent pun of St. Jokehim.

On a little inquiry, however, I learned that there actually existed such an order of knighthood; that the title, insignia, &c. conferred by it had, in the instances of Lord Nelson, the Duke of Bouillon, and Colonel Imhoff, who were all Knights of St. Joachim, been authorised by the British court; but that since then, this sanction of the order had been withdrawn. Of course to the reduction thus caused in the value of the honour was owing its descent in the scale of distinction to "such small deer" of Parnassus as myself. I wrote a letter, however, full of grateful acknowledgment, to Monsieur Hansson, the Vice-Chancellor of the Order, saying that I was unconscious of having entitled myself, by any public service, to a reward due only to the benefactors of mankind; and therefore begged leave most respectfully to decline it.

* Page 127. of this edition.

PREFACE
TO
THE THIRD VOLUME.

THE three satirical Poems, with which this Volume commences, were published originally without the author's name; "Corruption" and "Intolerance" in the year 1808, and "The Sceptic" in the year following. The political opinions adopted in the first of these Satires — the Poem on Corruption — was chiefly caught up, as is intimated in the original Preface, from the writings of Bolingbroke, Sir William Wyndham, and other statesmen of that factious period, when the same sort of alliance took place between Toryism and what is now called Radicalism, which is always likely to ensue on the ejection of the Tory party from power.† In the somewhat rash effusion, it will be seen that neither of the two great English parties is handled with much respect; and I remember being taken to task, by one of the few of my Whig acquaintances that ever looked into the poem, for the following allusion to the silencing effects of official station on certain orators: —

> As bees, on flowers alighting, cease their hum,
> So, settling upon places, Whigs grow dumb.

But these attempts of mine in the stately, Juvenalian style of satire, met with but little success, — never having attained, I believe, even the honours of a second edition; and I found that lighter form of weapon, to which I

† Bolingbroke himself acknowledges that "both parties were become factions, in the strict sense of the word."

afterwards betook myself, not only more easy to wield, but, from its very lightness, perhaps, more sure to reach its mark.

It would almost seem, too, as if the same unembittered spirit, the same freedom from all real malice with which, in most instances, this sort of squib warfare has been waged by me, was felt, in some degree, even by those who were themselves the objects of it;—so generously forgiving have I, in most instances, found them. Even the high Personage against whom the earliest and perhaps most successful of my lighter missiles were launched, could refer to and quote them, as I learn from an incident mentioned in the Life of Sir Walter Scott*, with a degree of good-humour and playfulness which was creditable alike to his temper and good sense. At a memorable dinner given by the Regent to Sir Walter in the year 1815, Scott, among other stories with which his royal host was much amused, told of a sentence passed by an old friend of his, the Lord Justice Clerk Braxfield, attended by circumstances in which the cruelty of this waggish judge was even more conspicuous than his humour. "The Regent laughed heartily," says the biographer, "at this specimen of Braxfield's brutal humour; and 'I' faith, Walter,' said he, 'this old bigwig seems to have taken things as coolly as my tyrannical self. Don't you remember Tom Moore's description of me at breakfast?—

> 'The table spread with tea and toast,
> Death-warrants and the Morning Post.'"

In reference to this, and other less exalted instances, of the good-humoured spirit in which my "innocui sales" have in general been taken, I shall venture to cite here a few flattering sentences which, coming as they did from a political adversary and a stranger, touched me far more by their generosity than even by their praise. In speaking of the pension which had just then been conferred upon me, and expressing, in warm terms, his approval of the grant, the editor of a leading Tory journal† thus liberally expresses himself:—"We know that some will blame us for our prejudice—if it be prejudice, in favour of Mr. Moore; but we cannot help it. As he tells us himself,

> 'Wit a diamond brings
> That cuts its bright way through'

the most obdurate political antipathies. * * * We do not believe that any one was ever hurt by libels so witty as those of Mr. Moore:—great privilege of wit, which renders it impossible even for those whose enemies wits are, to hate them!"

To return to the period of the Regency:—In the numerous attacks from the government press, which my occasional vollies of small shot against the Court used to draw down upon me, it was constantly alleged, as an aggravation of my misdeeds, that I had been indebted to the Royal personage thus assailed by me for many kind and substantial services. Luckily, the list of the benefits showered upon me from that high quarter may be despatched in a few sentences. At the request of the Earl of Moira, one of my earliest and best friends, his Royal Highness graciously permitted me to dedicate to him my Translation of the Odes of Anacreon. I was twice, I think, admitted to the honour of dining at Carlton House; and when the Prince, on his being made Regent in 1811, gave his memorable fête, I was one of the crowd—about 1500, I believe, in number—who enjoyed the privilege of being his guests on the occasion.

There occur some allusions, indeed, in the Twopenny Post-Bag, to the absurd taste displayed in the ornaments of the Royal supper-table at that fête‡; and this violation—for such, to a certain extent, I allow it to have been—of the reverence due to the rights of the Hospitable Jove§, which, whether administered by prince or peasant, ought to be sacred from such exposure, I am by no means disposed to defend. But, whatever may be thought of the

* Vol. iii. p. 342. † The Standard, August 24. 1835.

‡ "The same *fauteuils* and girandoles—
The same gold asses, pretty souls,
That, in this rich and classic dome,
Appear so perfectly at home;
The same bright river, 'mong the dishes,
But not—ah! not the same dear fishes.
Late hours and claret kill'd the old ones;—
So, stead of silver and of gold ones,
(It being rather hard to raise
Fish of that *specie* now-a-days)
Some sprats have been, by Y—rm—h's wish,
Promoted into silver fish,
And gudgeons (so V—ns—tt—t told
The Reg—t) are as good as gold."
Twopenny Post-Bag, p. 137.

§ "Ante fores stabat Jovis Hospitis ara."
OVID.

taste or prudence of some of these satires, there exists no longer, I apprehend, much difference of opinion respecting the character of the Royal personage against whom they were aimed. Already, indeed, has the stern verdict which the voice of History cannot but pronounce upon him, been in some degree anticipated*, in a sketch of the domestic events of his reign, supposed to have proceeded from the pen of one who was himself an actor in some of its most painful scenes, and who, from his professional position, commanded a near insight into the character of that exalted individual, both as husband and father. To the same high authority I must refer for an account of the mysterious "Book†," to which allusion is more than once made in the following pages.

One of the earliest and most successful of the numerous trifles I wrote at that period, was the Parody on the Regent's celebrated Letter, announcing to the world that he "had no predilections," &c. This very opportune squib was, at first, circulated privately; my friend, Mr. Perry, having for some time hesitated to publish it. He got some copies of it, however, printed off for me, which I sent round to several members of the Whig party; and, having to meet a number of them at dinner immediately after, found it no easy matter to keep my countenance while they were discussing among them the merits of the Parody. One of the party, I recollect, having quoted to me the following description of the state of both King and Regent, at that moment,—

> "A strait waistcoat on *him*, and restrictions on *me*,
> A more limited monarchy could not well be,"

grew rather provoked with me for not enjoying the fun of the parody as much as himself.

While thus the excitement of party feeling lent to the political trifles contained in this volume a relish and pungency not their own, an effect has been attributed to two squibs, wholly unconnected with politics—the Letters from the Dowager Countess of Cork, and from Messrs. Lackington and Co.‡—of which I had myself not the slightest notion till I found it thus alluded to in Mr. Lockhart's Life of Sir Walter Scott. In speaking of the causes which were supposed to have contributed to the comparative failure of the Poem of "Rokeby," the biographer says, "It is fair to add that, among the London circles, at least, some sarcastic flings, in Mr. Moore's Twopenny Post-Bag, must have had an unfavourable influence on this occasion."§

Among the translations that have appeared on the Continent, of the greater part of my poetical works, there has been no attempt, as far as I can learn, to give a version of any of my satirical writings,—with the single exception of a squib contained in this volume, entitled "Little Man and Little Soul‖," of which there is a translation into German verse, by the late distinguished oriental scholar, Professor Von Bohlen.¶ Though unskilled, myself, in German, I can yet perceive—sufficiently to marvel at it—the dexterity and ease with which the Old Ballad metre of the original is

* Edinburgh Review, No. cxxxv., *George the Fourth and Queen Caroline.*—"When the Prince entered upon public life he was found to have exhausted the resources of a career of pleasure; to have gained followers without making friends; to have acquired much envy and some admiration among the unthinking multitude of polished society; but not to command in any quarter either respect or esteem. * * * The portrait which we have painted of him is undoubtedly one of the darkest shade and most repulsive form."

† "There is no doubt whatever that *The Book*, written by Mr. Perceval, and privately printed at his house, under Lord Eldon's superintendence and his own, was prepared in concert with the King, and was intended to sound the alarm against Carlton House and the Whigs."—*Ed. Review, ib.*

‡ *Twopenny Post-Bag*, pp. 153. 155. I avail myself of the mention here of this latter squib, to recant a correction which I too hastily made in the two following lines of it:—

> "And, though statesmen may glory in being unbought,
> In an author, we think, sir, that's rather a fault."

Forgetting that Pope's ear was satisfied with the sort of rhyme here used, I foolishly altered (and spoiled) the whole couplet to get rid of it.

§ "See, for instance," says Mr. Lockhart, "the Epistle of Lady Cork; or that of Messrs. Lackington, booksellers, to one of their dandy authors:—

> "'Should you feel any touch of *poetical* glow,
> We've a scheme to suggest:—Mr. Sc—tt, you must know,
> (Who, we're sorry to say it, now works for *the Row*,)[1]
> Having quitted the Borders, to seek new renown,
> Is coming, by long Quarto stages, to Town;
> And beginning with Rokeby (the job's sure to pay)
> Means to *do* all the Gentlemen's Seats on the way.
> Now, the scheme is (though none of our hackneys can beat him)
> To start a fresh Poet through Highgate to *meet* him;
> Who, by means of quick proofs—no revises—long coaches—
> May do a few villas, before Sc—tt approaches.
> Indeed, if our Pegasus be not curst shabby,
> He'll reach, without found'ring, at least Woburn Abbey.'"

‖ Alluding to a speech delivered in the year 1813 by the Right Hon. Charles Abbott (then Speaker) against Mr. Grattan's motion for a Committee on the Claims of the Catholics

¶ Author of "The Ancient Indian."

[1] Paternoster Row.

adopted and managed in the translation. As this trifle may be considered curious, not only in itself, but still more as connected with so learned a name, I shall here present it to my readers, premising that the same eminent Professor has left a version also of one of my very early *facetiæ*, "The Rabbinical Origin of Woman."

"THERE WAS A LITTLE MAN."

(*Translated by Professor von Bohlen.*)

Es war ein kleiner Mann,
Und der hatt'n kleinen Geist
Und er sprach: kleiner Geist sehn wir zu, zu, zu,
Ob uns moglich wohl wird seyn
So ein kleines Redelein
Das wir halten, kleiner ich und kleiner du, du, du,
Das wir halten, kleiner ich und kleiner du.

Und der kleine Geist, der brach
Aus dem Loche nun und sprach:
Ich behaupte, kleiner Mann, du bist keck, keck, keck,
Nimm nicht übel meine Zweifel,
Aber sage mir, zum Teufel,
Hat die kleine kleine Red' einen zweck, zweck, zweck,
Hat die kleine kleine Red' einen zweck?

Der kleine Mann darauf
Bliess die Backen mächtig auf,
Und er sprach: kleiner Geist sey gescheut, scheut, scheut;
Kleiner ich und kleiner du
Sind berufen ja dazu
Zu verdammen und bekehren alle Leut', Leut', Leut',
Zu verdammen und bekehren alle Leut'.

Und sie fingen beide an
Der kleine Geist und kleine Mann,
Paukten ab ihre Rede so klein, klein, klein;
Und die ganze Welt für wahr
Meint, das aufgeblas'ne Paar
Musst ein winziges Pfäffelein nur seyn, seyn, seyn,
Musst ein winziges Pfäffelein, nur seyn.

Having thus brought together, as well from the records of others, as from my own recollection, whatever incidental lights could be thrown from those sources, on some of the satirical effusions contained in these pages, I shall now reserve all such reminiscences and notices as relate to the Irish Melodies for our next volume.

It is right my readers should here be apprized, that the plan of classing my poetical works according to the order of their first publication is pursued no further than the Second Volume of this Collection; and that, therefore, the arrangement of the contents of the succeeding Volumes, though not, in a general way, departing much from this rule, is not to be depended upon as observing it.

PREFACE
TO
THE FOURTH VOLUME.

THE recollections connected, in my mind, with that early period of my life, when I first thought of interpreting in verse the touching language of my country's music, tempt me again to advert to those long past days; and even at the risk of being thought to indulge overmuch in what Colley Cibber calls "the great pleasure of writing about one's self all day," to notice briefly some of those impressions and influences under which the attempt to adapt words to our ancient Melodies was for some time meditated by me, and, at last, undertaken.

There can be no doubt that to the zeal and industry of Mr. Bunting his country is indebted for the preservation of her old national airs. During the prevalence of the Penal Code, the music of Ireland was made to share in the fate of its people. Both were alike shut out from the pale of civilised life; and seldom anywhere but in the huts of the proscribed race could the sweet voice of the songs of other days be heard. Even of that class, the itinerant harpers, among whom for a long period our ancient music had been kept alive, there remained but few to continue the precious tradition; and a great music-meeting held at Belfast in the year 1792, at which the two or three still remaining of the old race of wandering harpers assisted, exhibited the last public effort made by the lovers of Irish music, to preserve to their country the only grace or ornament left to her, out of the wreck of all her liberties and hopes. Thus what the fierce legislature of the Pale had endeavoured vainly through so many centuries to effect,—the utter extinction of Ireland's Minstrelsy,—the deadly pressure of the Penal Laws had nearly, at the close of the eighteenth century, accomplished; and, but for the zeal and intelligent research of Mr. Bunting, at that crisis, the greater part of our musical treasures would probably have been lost to the world. It was in the year 1796 that this gentleman published his first volume; and the national spirit and hope then wakened in Ireland, by the rapid spread of the democratic principle throughout Europe, could not but in-

sure a most cordial reception for such a work; —flattering as it was to the fond dreams of Erin's early days, and containing in itself, indeed, remarkable testimony to the truth of her claims to an early date of civilisation.

It was in the year 1797 that, through the medium of Mr. Bunting's book, I was first made acquainted with the beauties of our native music. A young friend of our family, Edward Hudson, the nephew of an eminent dentist of that name, who played with much taste and feeling on the flute, and, unluckily for himself, was but too deeply warmed with the patriotic ardour then kindling around him, was the first who made known to me this rich mine of our country's melodies; — a mine, from the working of which my humble labours as a poet have since then derived their sole lustre and value.

About the same period I formed an acquaintance, which soon grew into intimacy, with young Robert Emmet. He was my senior, I think by one class, in the university; for when, in the first year of my course, I became a member of the Debating Society — a sort of nursery to the authorised Historical Society — I found him in full reputation, not only for his learning and eloquence, but also for the blamelessness of his life, and the grave suavity of his manners.

Of the political tone of this minor school of oratory, which was held weekly at the rooms of different resident members, some notion may be formed from the nature of the questions proposed for discussion, — one of which I recollect, was, "Whether an Aristocracy or a Democracy is most favourable to the advancement of science and literature?" while another, bearing even more pointedly on the relative position of the government and the people, at this crisis, was thus significantly propounded: — "Whether a soldier was bound, on all occasions, to obey the orders of his commanding officer?" On the former of these questions, the effect of Emmet's eloquence upon his young auditors was, I recollect, most striking. The prohibition against touching upon modern politics, which it was subsequently found necessary to enforce, had not yet been introduced; and Emmet, who took of course ardently the side of democracy in the debate, after a brief review of the republics of antiquity, showing how much they had all done for the advancement of science and the arts, proceeded, lastly, to the grand and perilous example, then passing before all eyes, the young Republic of France. Referring to the circumstance told of Cæsar, that, in swimming across the Rubicon, he contrived to carry with him his Commentaries and his sword, the young orator said, "Thus France wades through a sea of storm and blood; but while, in one hand, she wields the sword against her aggressors, with the other she upholds the glories of science and literature unsullied by the ensanguined tide through which she struggles." In another of his remarkable speeches, I remember his saying, "When a people, advancing rapidly in knowledge and power, perceive at last how far their government is lagging behind them, what then, I ask, *is* to be done in such a case? What, but to pull the government *up* to the people?"

In a few months after, both Emmet and myself were admitted members of the greater and recognised institution, called the Historical Society; and, even here, the political feeling so rife abroad contrived to mix up its restless spirit with all our debates and proceedings; notwithstanding the constant watchfulness of the college authorities, as well as of a strong party within the Society itself, devoted adherents to the policy of the government, and taking invariably part with the Provost and Fellows in all their restrictive and inquisitorial measures. The most distinguished and eloquent of these supporters of power were a young man named Sargent, of whose fate in after-days I know nothing, and Jebb, the late Bishop of Limerick, who was then, as he continued to be through life, much respected for his private worth and learning.

Of the popular side, in the Society, the chief champion and ornament was Robert Emmet; and though every care was taken to exclude from the subjects of debate all questions verging towards the politics of the day, it was always easy enough, by a side-wind of digression or allusion, to bring Ireland, and the prospects then opening upon her, within the scope of the orator's view. So exciting and powerful, in this respect, were Emmet's speeches, and so little were even the most eloquent of the adverse party able to cope with his powers, that it was at length thought advisable, by the higher authorities, to send among us a man of more advanced standing, as well as belonging to a former race of renowned speakers, in that Society, in order that he might answer the speeches of Emmet, and

endeavour to obviate the mischievous impression they were thought to produce. The name of this mature champion of the higher powers it is not necessary here to record; but the object of his mission among us was in some respect gained; as it was in replying to a long oration of his, one night, that Emmet, much to the mortification of us who gloried in him as our leader, became suddenly embarrassed in the middle of his speech, and, to use the parliamentary phrase, broke down. Whether from a momentary confusion in the thread of his argument, or possibly from diffidence in encountering an adversary so much his senior,—for Emmet was as modest as he was high-minded and brave,—he began, in the full career of his eloquence, to hesitate and repeat his words, and then, after an effort or two to recover himself, sat down.

It fell to my own lot to be engaged, about the same time, in a brisk struggle with the dominant party in the Society, in consequence of a burlesque poem which I gave in as candidate for the Literary Medal, entitled "An Ode upon Nothing, with Notes, by Trismegistus Rustifustius, D.D." &c. &c. For this squib against the great Dons of learning, the medal was voted to me by a triumphant majority. But a motion was made in the following week to rescind this vote; and a fierce contest between the two parties ensued, which I at last put an end to by voluntarily withdrawing my composition from the Society's Book.

I have already adverted to the period when Mr. Bunting's valuable volume first became known to me. There elapsed no very long time before I was myself the happy proprietor of a copy of the work, and, though never regularly instructed in music, could play over the airs with tolerable facility on the piano-forte. Robert Emmet used sometimes to sit by me, when I was thus engaged; and I remember one day his starting up as from a reverie, when I had just finished playing that spirited tune called the Red Fox*, and exclaiming, "Oh that I were at the head of twenty thousand men, marching to that air!"

How little did I then think that in one of the most touching of the sweet airs I used to play to him, his own dying words would find an interpreter so worthy of their sad, but proud feeling†; or that another of those mournful strains‡ would long be associated, in the hearts of his countrymen, with the memory of her§ who shared with Ireland his last blessing and prayer.

Though fully alive, of course, to the feelings which such music could not but inspire, I had not yet undertaken the task of adapting words to any of the airs; and it was, I am ashamed to say, in dull and turgid prose, that I made my first appearance in print as a champion of the popular cause. Towards the latter end of the year 1797, the celebrated newspaper called "The Press" was set up by Arthur O'Connor, Thomas Addis Emmet, and other chiefs of the United Irish conspiracy, with the view of preparing and ripening the public mind for the great crisis then fast approaching. This memorable journal, according to the impression I at present retain of it, was far more distinguished for earnestness of purpose and intrepidity, than for any great display of literary talent;—the bold letters written by Emmet (the elder), under the signature of "Montanus," being the only compositions I can now call to mind as entitled to praise for their literary merit. It required, however, but a small sprinkling of talent to make bold writing, at that time, palatable; and, from the experience of my own home, I can answer for the avidity with which every line of this daring journal was devoured. It used to come out, I think, twice a week, and, on the evening of publication, I always read it aloud to our small circle after supper.

It may easily be conceived that, what with my ardour for the national cause, and a growing consciousness of some little turn for authorship, I was naturally eager to become a contributor to those patriotic and popular columns. But the constant anxiety about me which I knew my own family felt,—a feeling far more wakeful than even their zeal in the public cause,—withheld me from hazarding any step that might cause them alarm. I had ventured, indeed, one evening, to pop privately into the letter-box of The Press, a short Fragment in imitation of Ossian. But this, though inserted,

* "Let Erin remember the days of old."
† "Oh, breathe not his name."
‡ "She is far from the land where her young hero sleeps."
§ Miss Curran.

passed off quietly; and nobody was, in *any* sense of the phrase, the wiser for it. I was soon tempted, however, to try a more daring flight. Without communicating my secret to any one but Edward Hudson, I addressed a long Letter, in prose, to the * * * * * of * * * *, in which a profusion of bad flowers of rhetoric was enwreathed plentifully with that weed which Shakspeare calls "the cockle of rebellion," and, in the same manner as before, committed it tremblingly to the chances of the letter-box. I hardly expected my prose would be honoured with insertion, when, lo, on the next evening of publication, when, seated as usual in my little corner by the fire, I unfolded the paper for the purpose of reading it to my select auditory, there was my own Letter staring me full in the face, being honoured with so conspicuous a place as to be one of the first articles my audience would expect to hear. Assuming an outward appearance of ease, while every nerve within me was trembling, I contrived to accomplish the reading of the Letter without raising in either of my auditors a suspicion that it was my own. I enjoyed the pleasure, too, of hearing it a good deal praised by them; and might have been tempted by this welcome tribute to acknowledge myself the author, had I not found that the language and sentiments of the article were considered by both to be "very bold."*

I was not destined, however, to remain long undetected. On the following day, Edward Hudson†,—the only one, as I have said, entrusted with my secret, called to pay us a morning visit, and had not been long in the room, conversing with my mother, when looking significantly at me, he said, "Well, you saw ——" Here he stopped; but the mother's eye had followed his, with the rapidity of lightning, to mine, and at once she perceived the whole truth. "That Letter was yours, then?" she asked of me eagerly; and, without hesitation, of course, I acknowledged the fact; when in the most earnest manner she entreated of me never again to have any connexion with that paper; and, as every wish of hers was to me law, I readily pledged the solemn promise she required.

Though well aware how easily a sneer may be raised at the simple details of this domestic scene, I have yet ventured to put it on record, as affording an instance of the gentle and womanly watchfulness,—the Providence, as it may be called, of the little world of home,—by which although placed almost in the very current of so headlong a movement, and living familiarly with some of the most daring of those who propelled it, I yet was guarded from any participation in their secret oaths, counsels, or plans, and thus escaped all share in that wild struggle to which so many far better men than myself fell victims.

In the mean while, this great conspiracy was hastening on, with fearful precipitancy, to its outbreak; and vague and shapeless as are now known to have been the views, even of those who were engaged practically in the plot, it is not any wonder that to the young and uninitiated like myself it should have opened prospects partaking far more of the wild dreams of poesy than of the plain and honest prose of real life. But a crisis was then fast approaching, when such self-delusions could no longer be indulged; and when the mystery which had hithero hung over the plans of the conspirators was to be rent asunder by the stern hand of power.

Of the horrors that fore-ran and followed the frightful explosion of the year 1798, I have neither inclination nor, luckily, occasion to speak. But among those introductory scenes, which had somewhat prepared the public mind for such a catastrophe, there was one, of a painful description, which, as having been myself an actor in it, I may be allowed briefly to notice.

It was not many weeks, I think, before this crisis, that, owing to information gained by the college authorities of the rapid spread, among

* So thought also higher authorities; for among the extracts from The Press brought forward by the Secret Committee of the House of Commons, to show how formidable had been the designs of the United Irishmen, there are two or three paragraphs cited from this redoubtable Letter.

† Of the depth and extent to which Hudson had involved himself in the conspiracy, none of our family had harboured the least notion; till, on the seizure of the thirteen Leinster delegates, at Oliver Bond's, in the month of March, 1798, we found, to our astonishment and sorrow, that he was one of the number.

To those unread in the painful history of this period, it is right to mention that almost all the leaders of the United Irish conspiracy were Protestants. Among those companions of my own alluded to in these pages, I scarcely remember a single Catholic.

the students, not only of the principles but the organisation of the Irish Union*, a solemn Visitation was held by Lord Clare, the vice-chancellor of the University, with the view of inquiring into the extent of this branch of the plot, and dealing summarily with those engaged in it.

Imperious and harsh as then seemed the policy of thus setting up a sort of inquisitorial tribunal, armed with the power of examining witnesses on oath, and in a place devoted to the instruction of youth, I cannot but confess that the facts which came out in the course of the evidence went far towards justifying even this arbitrary proceeding; and to the many who, like myself, were acquainted only with the general views of the Union leaders, without even knowing, except from conjecture, who those leaders were, or what their plans or objects, it was most startling to hear the disclosures which every succeeding witness brought forth. There were a few,—and among that number poor Robert Emmet, John Brown, and the two * * * * * * s †, whose total absence from the whole scene, as well as the dead silence that, day after day, followed the calling out of their names, proclaimed how deep had been their share in the unlawful proceedings inquired into by this tribunal.

But there was one young friend of mine, * * * * * * *, whose appearance among the suspected and examined as much surprised as it deeply and painfully interested me. He and Emmet had long been intimate and attached friends;—their congenial fondness for mathematical studies having been, I think, a far more binding sympathy between them than any arising out of their political opinions. From his being called up, however, on this day, when, as it appeared afterwards, all the most important evidence was brought forward, there could be little doubt that, in addition to his intimacy with Emmet, the college authorities must have possessed some information which led them to suspect him of being an accomplice in the conspiracy. In the course of his examination, some questions were put to him which he refused to answer,—most probably from their tendency to involve or inculpate others; and he was accordingly dismissed, with the melancholy certainty that his future prospects in life were blasted; it being already known that the punishment for such contumacy was not merely expulsion from the University, but also exclusion from all the learned professions.

The proceedings, indeed, of this whole day had been such as to send me to my home in the evening with no very agreeable feelings or prospects. I had heard evidence given affecting even the lives of some of those friends whom I had long regarded with admiration as well as affection; and what was still worse than even their danger,—a danger ennobled, I thought, by the cause in which they suffered,—was the shameful spectacle exhibited by those who had appeared in evidence against them. Of these witnesses, the greater number had been themselves involved in the plot, and now came forward either as voluntary informers, or else were driven by the fear of the consequences of refusal to secure their own safety at the expense of companions and friends.

I well remember the gloom, so unusual, that hung over our family circle on that evening, as, talking together of the events of the day, we discussed the likelihood of my being among those who would be called up for examination on the morrow. The deliberate conclusion to which my dear honest advisers came, was that, overwhelming as the consequences were to all their plans and hopes for me, yet, if the questions leading to criminate others, which had been put to almost all examined on that day, and which poor * * * * * * * alone had refused to answer, I must, in the same manner, and at all risks, return a similar refusal. I am not quite certain whether I received any intimation, on the following morning, that I was to be one of those examined in the course of the day; but I rather think some such notice had been

* In the Report from the Secret Committee of the Irish House of Lords, this extension of the plot to the College is noticed as "a desperate project of the same faction to corrupt the youth of the country by introducing their organised system of treason into the University."

† One of these brothers has long been a general in the French army; having taken a part in all those great enterprises of Napoleon which have now become matter of history. Should these pages meet the eye of General * * * * *, they will call to his mind the days we passed together in Normandy, a few summers since;—more especially our excursion to Bayeux, when, as we talked on the way of old college times and friends, all the eventful and stormy scenes he had passed through since seemed quite forgotten.

conveyed to me;—and, at last, my awful turn came, and I stood in presence of the formidable tribunal. There sat, with severe look, the vice-chancellor, and, by his side, the memorable Doctor Duigenan,—memorable for his eternal pamphlets against the Catholics.

The oath was proffered to me. "I have an objection, my Lord," said I, "to taking this oath." "What is your objection?" he asked sternly. "I have no fears, my Lord, that any thing I might say would criminate myself; but it might tend to involve others, and I despise the character of the person who could be led, under any such circumstances, to inform against his associates." This was aimed at some of the revelations of the preceding day; and, as I learned afterwards, was so understood. "How old are you, Sir?" he then asked. "Between seventeen and eighteen, my Lord." He then turned to his assessor, Duigenan, and exchanged a few words with him, in an under tone of voice. "We cannot," he resumed, again addressing me, "suffer any one to remain in our University who refuses to take this oath." "I shall, then, my Lord," I replied, "take the oath,—still reserving to myself the power of refusing to answer any such questions as I have just described." "We do not sit here to argue with *you*, Sir," he rejoined sharply; upon which I took the oath, and seated myself in the witnesses' chair.

The following are the questions and answers that then ensued. After adverting to the proved existence of United Irish Societies in the University, he asked, "Have you ever belonged to any of these societies?" "No, my Lord." "Have you ever known of any of the proceedings that took place in them?" "No, my Lord." "Did you ever hear of a proposal at any of their meetings, for the purchase of arms and ammunition?" "Never, my Lord." "Did you ever hear of a proposition made, in one of these societies, with respect to the expediency of assassination?" "Oh no, my Lord." He then turned again to Duigenan, and, after a few words with him, said to me:—"When such are the answers you are able to give*, pray what was the cause of your great repugnance to taking the oath?" "I have already told your Lordship my chief reason; in addition to which, it was the first oath I ever took, and the hesitation was, I think, natural."†

I was now dismissed without any further questioning; and, however trying had been this short operation, was amply repaid for it by the kind zeal with which my young friends and companions flocked to congratulate me;—not so much, I was inclined to hope, on my acquittal by the court, as on the manner in which I had acquitted *myself*. Of my reception, on returning home, after the fears entertained of so very different a result, I will not attempt any description;—it was all that *such* a home alone could furnish.

I have continued thus down to the very verge of the warning outbreak of 1798, the slight sketch of my early days which I ventured to commence in the First Volume of this Collection: nor could I have furnished the Irish Melodies with any more pregnant illustration, as it was in those times, and among the events then stirring, that the feeling which afterwards found a voice in my country's music, was born and nurtured.

I shall now string together such detached notices and memoranda respecting this work, as I think may be likely to interest my readers.

Of the few songs written with a concealed political feeling,—such as "When he who adores thee," and one or two more,—the most successful, in its day, was "When first I met

* There had been two questions put to all those examined on the first day,—"Were you ever asked to join any of these societies?"—and "By whom were you asked?"—which I should have refused to answer, and must, of course, have abided the consequences.

† For the correctness of the above report of this short examination, I can pretty confidentially answer. It may amuse, therefore, my readers,—as showing the manner in which biographers make the most of small facts,—to see an extract or two from another account of this affair, published not many years since by an old and zealous friend of our family. After stating with tolerable correctness one or two of my answers, the writer thus proceeds:—"Upon this, Lord Clare repeated the question, and young Moore made such an appeal, as caused his lordship to relax, austere and rigid as he was. The words I cannot exactly remember; the substance was as follows:—that he entered college to receive the education of a scholar and a gentleman; that he knew not how to compromise these characters by informing against his college companions; that his own speeches in the debating society had been ill construed, when the worst that could be said of them was, if truth had been spoken, that they were patriotic . . . . that he was aware of the high-minded nobleman he had the honour of appealing to, and if his lordship could for a moment condescend to step from his high station and place himself in his situation, then say how he would act under such circumstances, it would be his guidance."—HERBERT'S *Irish Varieties*. London, 1836.

thee warm and young," which alluded, in its hidden sense, to the Prince Regent's desertion of his political friends. It was little less, I own, than profanation to disturb the sentiment of so beautiful an air by any connexion with such a subject. The great success of this song, soon after I wrote it, among a large party staying at Chatsworth, is thus alluded to in one of Lord Byron's letters to me:—"I have heard from London that you have left Chatsworth and all there full of 'entusymusy' . . . . . and, in particular, that 'When first I met thee' has been quite overwhelming in its effect. I told you it was one of the best things you ever wrote, though that dog * * * * wanted you to omit part of it."

It has been sometimes supposed that "Oh, breathe not his name," was meant to allude to Lord Edward Fitzgerald: but this is a mistake; the song having been suggested by the well known passage in Robert Emmet's dying speech, "Let no man write my epitaph . . . . . let my tomb remain uninscribed, till other times and other men shall learn to do justice to my memory."

The feeble attempt to commemorate the glory of our great Duke—"When History's Muse," &c.—is in so far remarkable, that it made up amply for its want of poetical spirit, by an outpouring, rarely granted to bards in these days, of the spirit of prophecy. It was in the year 1815 that the following lines first made their appearance:—

And still the last crown of thy toils is remaining,
The grandest, the purest, ev'n *thou* hast yet known;
Though proud was thy task, other nations unchaining,
Far prouder to heal the deep wounds of thy own.
At the foot of that throne, for whose weal thou hast stood,
Go, plead for the land that first cradled thy fame, &c.

About fourteen years after these lines were written, the Duke of Wellington recommended to the throne the great measure of Catholic Emancipation.

The fancy of the "Origin of the Irish Harp," was (as I have elsewhere acknowledged*) suggested, by a drawing made under peculiarly painful circumstances, by the friend so often mentioned in this sketch, Edward Hudson.

In connexion with another of these matchless airs,—one that defies all poetry to do it justice,—I find the following singular and touching statement in an article of the Quarterly Review. Speaking of a young and promising poetess, Lucretia Davidson, who died very early from nervous excitement, the Reviewer says, "She was particularly sensitive to music. There was one song (it was Moore's Farewell to his Harp) to which she took a special fancy. She wished to hear it only at twilight,—thus (with that same perilous love of excitement which made her place the Æolian harp in the window when she was composing) seeking to increase the effect which the song produced upon a nervous system, already diseasedly susceptible; for it is said that, whenever she heard this song, she became cold, pale, and almost fainting; yet it was her favourite of all songs, and gave occasion to those verses addressed in her fifteenth year to her sister."†

With the Melody entitled "Love, Valour, and Wit," an incident is connected, which awakened feelings in me of proud, but sad pleasure—as showing that my songs had reached the hearts of some of the descendants of those great Irish families, who found themselves forced, in the dark days of persecution, to seek in other lands a refuge from the shame and ruin of their own;—those, whose story I have thus associated with one of their country's most characteristic airs:—

Ye Blakes and O'Donnells, whose fathers resign'd
The green hills of their youth, among strangers to find
That repose which at home they had sigh'd for in vain.

From a foreign lady, of this ancient extraction,—whose names, could I venture to mention them, would lend to the incident an additional Irish charm,—I received, about two years since, through the hands of a gentleman to whom it had been entrusted, a large portfolio, adorned inside with a beautiful drawing, representing Love, Wit, and Valour, as described in the song. In the border that surrounds the drawing are intro-

* "When, in consequence of the compact entered into between government and the chief leaders of the conspiracy, the State Prisoners, before proceeding into exile, were allowed to see their friends, I paid a visit to Edward Hudson, in the jail of Kilmainham, where he had then lain immured for four or five months, hearing of friend after friend being led out to death, and expecting every week his own turn to come. I found that to amuse his solitude he had made a large drawing with charcoal on the wall of his prison, representing that fancied origin of the Irish Harp which, some years after, I adopted as the subject of one of the 'Melodies.'"—*Life and Death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald*, vol. i.

† Quarterly Review, vol. xli. p. 294.

duced the favourite emblems of Erin, the harp, the shamrock, the mitred head of St. Patrick, together with scrolls containing each, inscribed in letters of gold, the name of some favourite melody of the fair artist.

This present was accompanied by the following letter from the lady herself; and her Irish race, I fear, is but too discernible in the generous indiscretion with which, in this instance, she allows praise so much to outstrip desert:—

"*Le 25 Août*, 1836.

"Monsieur,

"Si les poëtes n'étoient en quelque sorte une propriété intellectuelle dont chacun prend sa part à raison de la puissance qu'ils exercent, je ne saurois en vérité comment faire pour justifier mon courage!—car il en falloit beaucoup pour avoir osé consacrer mon pauvre talent d'amateur à vos délicieuses poësies, et plus encore pour en renvoyer le pâle reflet à son véritable auteur.

"J'espère toutefois que ma sympathie pour l'Irlande vous fera juger ma foible production avec cette heureuse partialité qui impose silence à la critique: car, si je n'appartiens pas à l'Ile Verte par ma naissance, ni mes relations, je puis dire que je m'y intéresse avec un cœur Irlandais, et que j'ai conservé plus que le nom de mes pères. Cela seul me fait espérer que mes petits voyageurs ne subiront pas le triste noviciat des étrangers. Puissent-ils remplir leur mission sur le sol natal, en agissant conjointement et toujours pour la cause Irlandaise, et amener enfin une ère nouvelle pour cette héroïque et malheureuse nation:—le moyen de vaincre de tels adversaires s'ils ne font qu'un?

"Vous dirai-je, Monsieur, les doux moments que je dois à vos ouvrages? ce seroit répéter une fois de plus ce que vous entendez tous les jours et de tous les coins de la terre. Aussi j'ai garde de vous ravir un tems trop précieux par l'écho de ces vieilles vérités.

"Si jamais mon étoile me conduit en Irlande, je ne m'y croirai pas étrangère. Je sais que le passé y laisse de longs souvenirs, et que la conformité des désirs et des espérances rapproche en dépit de l'espace et du tems.

"Jusque là, recevez, je vous prie, l'assurance de ma parfaite considération, avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être,

"Monsieur,

"Votre très-humble Servante,

"La Comtesse * * * * *."

Of the translations that have appeared of the Melodies in different languages, I shall here mention such as have come to my knowledge.

Latin.—"Cantus Hibernici," Nicholas Lee Torre, London, 1835.

Italian.—G. Flechia, Torino, 1836.—Adele Custi, Milano, 1836.

French.—Madame Belloc, Paris, 1823.—Loeve Veimars, Paris, 1829.

Russian.—Several detached Melodies, by the popular Russian poet Kozlof.

PREFACE
TO
THE FIFTH VOLUME.

In spite of the satirist's assertion, that

"next to singing, the most foolish thing
Is gravely to harangue on what we sing,"—

I shall yet venture to prefix to this Volume a few introductory pages, not relating so much to the Songs which it contains as to my own thoughts and recollections respecting song-writing in general.

The close alliance known to have existed between poetry and music, during the infancy of both these arts, has sometimes led to the conclusion that they are essentially kindred to each other, and that the true poet ought to be, if not practically, at least in taste and ear, a musician. That such was the case in the early times of ancient Greece, and that her poets then not only set their own verses to music, but sung them at public festivals, there is every reason, from all we know on the subject, to believe. A similar union between the two arts attended the dawn of modern literature, in the twelfth century, and was, in a certain degree, continued down as far as the time of Petrarch, when, as it appears from his own memorandums, that poet used to sing his verses, in

composing them*; and when it was the custom with all writers of sonnets and *canzoni* to prefix to their poems a sort of key-note, by which the intonation in reciting or chanting them was to be regulated.

As the practice of uniting in one individual, —whether Bard, Scald, or Troubadour,—the character and functions both of musician and poet, is known to have been invariably the mark of a rude state of society, so the gradual separation of these two callings, in accordance with that great principle of Political Economy, the division of labour, has been found an equally sure index of improving civilisation. So far, in England, indeed, has this partition of workmanship been carried, that, with the signal exception of Milton, there is not to be found, I believe, among all the eminent poets of England, a single musician. It is but fair, at the same time, to acknowledge, that out of the works of these very poets might be produced a select number of songs, surpassing, in fancy, grace, and tenderness, all that the language, perhaps, of any other country could furnish.

We witness, in our own times,—as far as the knowledge or practice of music is concerned, —a similar divorce between the two arts; and my friend and neighbour, Mr. Bowles, is the only distinguished poet of our day whom I can call to mind as being also a musician.† Not to dwell further, however, on living writers, the strong feeling, even to tears, with which I have seen Byron listen to some favourite melody, has been elsewere described by me; and the musical taste of Sir Walter Scott I ought to be the last person to call in question, after the very cordial tribute he has left on record to my own untutored minstrelsy.‡ But I must say, that, pleased as my illustrious friend appeared really to be, when I first sung for him at Abbotsford, it was not till an evening or two after, at his own hospitable supper-table, that I saw him in his true sphere of musical enjoyment. No sooner had the *quaigh* taken its round, after our repast, than his friend, Sir Adam, was called upon, with the general acclaim of the whole table, for the song of "Hey tuttie tattie," and gave it out to us with all the true national relish. But it was during the chorus that Scott's delight at this festive scene chiefly showed itself. At the end of every verse, the whole company rose from their seats, and stood round the table with arms crossed, so as to grasp the hand of the neighbour on each side. Thus interlinked, we continued to keep measure to the strain, by moving our arms up and down, all chanting forth vociferously, "Hey tuttie tattie, Hey tuttie tattie." Sir Walter's enjoyment of this old Jacobite chorus,—a little increased, doubtless, by seeing how I entered into the spirit of it,—gave to the whole scene, I confess, a zest and charm in my eyes such as the finest musical performance could not have bestowed on it.

Having been thus led to allude to this visit, I am tempted to mention a few other circumstances connected with it. From Abbotsford I proceeded to Edinburgh, whither Sir Walter, in a few days after, followed; and during my short stay in that city an incident occurred, which, though already mentioned by Scott, in his Diary§, and owing its chief interest to the connexion of his name with it, ought not to be omitted among these memoranda. As I had expressed a desire to visit the Edinburgh theatre, which opened but the evening before my departure, it was proposed to Sir Walter and myself, by our friend Jeffrey, that we should dine with him at an early hour for that purpose, and both were good-natured, enough to accompany me to the theatre. Having found, in a volume‖ sent to me by some anonymous correspondent, a more circumstantial account of the scene of that evening than Sir Walter has given in his Diary, I shall here

* The following is a specimen of these memorandums, as given by Foscolo:—"I must make these two verses over again, singing them, and I must transpose them—3 o'clock, A. M. 19th October." Frequently to sonnets of that time such notices as the following were prefixed:—"*Intonatum* per Francum"—"Scriptor dedit *sonum*."

† The late Rev. William Crowe, author of the noble poem of "Lewisden Hill," was likewise a musician, and has left a Treatise on English versification, to which his knowledge of the sister art lends a peculiar interest.

So little does even the origin of the word "lyrick," as applied to poetry, seem to be present to the minds of some writers, that the poet, Young, has left us an Essay on Lyric Poetry, in which there is not a single allusion to Music, from beginning to end.

‡ Life by Lockhart, vol. vi. p. 128.

§ "We went to the theatre together, and the house being luckily a good one, received T. M. with rapture. I could have hugged them, for it paid back the debt of the kind reception I met with in Ireland."

‖ Written by Mr. Benson Hill.

avail myself of its graphic and (with one exception) accurate details. After adverting to the sensation produced by the appearance of the late Duchess of St. Alban's in one of the boxes, the writer thus proceeds:—"There was a general buzz and stare, for a few seconds; the audience then turned their backs to the lady, and their attention to the stage, to wait till the first piece should be over ere they intended staring again. Just as it terminated, another party quietly glided into a box near that filled by the Duchess. One pleasing female was with the three male comers. In a minute the cry ran round:—'Eh, yon's Sir Walter, wi' Lockhart an' his wife*, and wha's the wee bit bodie wi' the pawkie een? Wow, but it's Tam Moore, just—Scott, Scott! Moore, Moore!'—with shouts, cheers, bravos and applause. But Scott would not rise to appropriate these tributes. One could see that he urged Moore to do so; and *he*, though modestly reluctant, at last yielded, and bowed hand on heart, with much animation. The cry for Scott was then redoubled. He gathered himself up, and, with a benevolent bend, acknowledged this deserved welcome. The orchestra played alternately Scotch and Irish Melodies."

Among the choicest of my recollections of that flying visit to Edinburgh, are the few days I passed with Lord Jeffrey at his agreeable retreat, Craig Crook. I had then recently written the words and music of a glee contained in this volume, "Ship a hoy!" which there won its first honours. So often, indeed, was I called upon to repeat it, that the upland echoes of Craig Crook ought long to have had its burden by heart.

Having thus got on Scottish ground, I find myself awakened to the remembrance of a name which, whenever song-writing is the theme, ought to rank second to none in that sphere of poetical fame. Robert Burns was wholly unskilled in music; yet the rare art of adapting words successfully to notes, of wedding verse in congenial union with melody, which, were it not for his example, I should say none but a poet versed in the sister-art ought to attempt, has yet, by him, with the aid of a music to which my own country's strains are alone comparable, been exercised with so workmanly a hand, and with so rich a variety of passion, playfulness, and power, as no song-writer, perhaps, but himself, has ever yet displayed.

That Burns, however untaught, was yet, in ear and feeling, a musician†, is clear from the skill with which he adapts his verse to the structure and character of each different strain. Still more strikingly did he prove his fitness for this peculiar task, by the sort of instinct with which, in more than one instance, he discerned the real and innate sentiment which an air was calculated to convey, though previously associated with words expressing a totally different cast of feeling. Thus the air of a ludicrous old song, "Fee him, father, fee him," has been made the medium of one of Burns's most pathetic effusions; while, still more marvellously, "Hey tuttie tattie" has been elevated by him into that heroic strain, "Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled;"—a song which, in a great national crisis, would be of more avail than all the eloquence of a Demosthenes.‡

It was impossible that the example of Burns, in these, his higher inspirations, should not materially contribute to elevate the character of English song-writing, and even to lead to a re-union of the gifts which it requires, if not, as of old, in the same individual, yet in that perfect sympathy between poet and musician which almost amounts to identity, and of which, in our own times, we have seen so interesting an example in the few songs which bear the united names of those two sister muses, Mrs. Arkwright and the late Mrs. Hemans.

Very different was the state of the song-department of English poesy at the period when I first tried my novice hand at the lyre. The divorce between song and sense had then

* The writer was here mistaken. There was one lady of our party; but neither Mr. nor Mrs. Lockhart was present.

† It appears certain, notwithstanding, that he was, in his youth, wholly insensible to music. In speaking of him and his brother, Mr. Murdoch, their preceptor, says, "Robert's ear, in particular, was remarkably dull and his voice untunable. It was long before I could get him to distinguish one tune from another.

‡ I know not whether it has ever been before remarked, that the well-known lines in one of Burns's most spirited songs,

"The title's but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gold for a' that,"

may possibly have been suggested by the following passage in Wycherley's play, the "Country Wife:"—"I weigh the *man*, not his *title*; 'tis not the King's *stamp* can make the metal better."

reached its utmost range; and to all verses connected with music, from a Birth-day Ode down to the *libretto* of the last new opera, might fairly be applied the solution which Figaro gives of the quality of the words of songs, in general,—"Ce qui ne vaut pas la peine d'être dit, on le chante."

It may here be suggested that the convivial lyrics of Captain Morris present an exception to the general character I have given of the songs of this period; and, assuredly, had Morris written much that at all approached the following verses of his "Reasons for Drinking," (which I quote from recollection,) few would have equalled him either in fancy, or in that lighter kind of pathos, which comes, as in this instance, like a few melancholy notes in the middle of a gay air, throwing a soft and passing shade over mirth:—

"My muse, too, when her wings are dry,
No frolic flights will take;
But round a bowl she'll dip and fly,
Like swallows round a lake.
If then the nymph must have her share,
Before she'll bless her swain,
Why, *that* I think's a reason fair
To fill my glass again.

"Then, many a lad I lik'd is dead,
And many a lass grown old;
And, as the lesson strikes my head,
My weary heart grows cold.
But wine awhile holds off despair
Nay, bids a hope remain;—
And that I think's a reason fair
To fill my glass again."

How far my own labours in this field—if, indeed, the gathering of such idle flowers may be so designated—have helped to advance, or even kept pace with the progressive improvement I have here described, it is not for me to presume to decide. I only know that in a strong and inborn feeling for music lies the source of whatever talent I may have shown for poetical composition; and that it was the effort to translate into language the emotions and passions which music appeared to me to express, that first led to my writing any poetry at all deserving of the name. Dryden has happily described music as being "inarticulate poetry;" and I have always felt, in adapting words to an expressive air, that I was but bestowing upon it the gift of articulation, and thus enabling it to speak to others all that was conveyed, in its wordless eloquence, to myself. Owing to the space I was led to devote, in our last volume, to subjects connected with the Irish Melodies, I was forced to postpone some recollections, of a very different description, respecting the gala at Boyle Farm, by which my poem, entitled The Summer Fête, was suggested. In an old letter of my own to a friend in Ireland, giving an account of this brilliant festival, I find some memorandums which, besides their reference to the subject of the poem, contain some incidents also connected with the first appearance before the public of one of the most successful of all my writings, the story of the Epicurean. I shall give my extracts from this letter, in their original diary-like form, without alteration or dressing:—

June 30. 1837.—Day threatening for the Fête. Was with Lord Essex* at three o'clock, and started about half an hour after. The whole road swarming with carriages-and-four all the way to Boyle Farm, which Lady de Roos has lent, for the occasion, to Henry;—the five givers of the Fête, being Lords Chesterfield, Castlereagh, Alvanley, Henry de Roos, and Robert Grosvenor, subscribing four or five hundred pounds each towards it. The arrangements all in the very best taste. The pavilion for quadrilles, on the bank of the river, with steps descending to the water, quite eastern—like what one sees in Daniel's pictures. Towards five the *élite* of the gay world was assembled—the women all looking their best, and scarce a single ugly face to be found. About half past five, sat down to dinner, 450 under a tent on the lawn, and fifty to the Royal Table in the conservatory. The Tyrolese musicians sung during dinner, and there were, after dinner, gondolas on the river, with Caradori, De Begnis, Velluti, &c., singing barcarolles and rowing off occasionally, so as to let their voices die away and again return. After these succeeded a party in dominos, Madame Vestris, Fanny Ayton, &c., who rowed about in the same manner, and sung, among other things, my gondola song, "Oh come to me when daylight sets." The evening

* I cannot let pass the incidental mention here of this social and public-spirited nobleman, without expressing my strong sense of his kindly qualities, and lamenting the loss which not only society, but the cause of sound and progressive Political Reform, has sustained by his death.

was delicious, and, as soon as it grew dark, the groves were all lighted up with coloured lamps, in different shapes and devices. A little lake near a grotto took my fancy particularly, the shrubs all round being illuminated, and the lights reflected in the water. Six-and-twenty of the prettiest girls of the world of fashion, the F * * * * * t * rs, Br * d * * * lls, De R * * s's, Miss F * * ld * * * g, Miss F * x, Miss R * ss * ll, Miss B' * * ly, were dressed as Rosières, and opened the quadrilles in the pavilion . . . . . While talking with D—n (Lord P.'s brother), he said to me, "I never read any thing so touching as the death of your heroine." "What!" said I, "have you got so far already?"† "Oh, I read it in the Literary Gazette." This anticipation of my catastrophe is abominable. Soon after, the Marquis P—lm—a, said to me, as he and I and B—m stood together, looking at the gay scene, "This is like one of your Fêtes." "Oh yes," said B—m, thinking he alluded to Lalla Rookh, "quite oriental." "Non, non," replied P—lm—a, "je veux dire cette Fête d'Athènes, dont j'ai lu la description dans la Gazette d'aujourd'hui."

Respecting the contents of the present Volume I have but a few more words to add. Accustomed as I have always been to consider my songs as a sort of compound creations, in which the music forms no less essential a part than the verses, it is with a feeling which I can hardly expect my unlyrical readers to understand, that I see such a swarm of songs as crowd these pages all separated from the beautiful airs which have formed hitherto their chief ornament and strength—their "decus et tutamen." But, independently of this uneasy feeling, or fancy, there is yet another inconvenient consequence of the divorce of the words from the music, which will be more easily, perhaps, comprehended, and which, in justice to myself, as a metre-monger, ought to be noticed. Those occasional breaches of the laws of rhythm, which the task of adapting words to airs demands of the poet, though very frequently one of the happiest results of his skill, become blemishes when the verse is separated from the melody, and require, to justify them, the presence of the music to whose wildness or sweetness the sacrifice had been made.

In a preceding page of this preface, I have mentioned a Treatise by the late Rev. Mr. Crowe, on English versification; and I remember his telling me, in reference to the point I have just touched upon, that, should another edition of that work be called for, he meant to produce, as examples of new and anomalous forms of versification, the following songs from the Irish Melodies:—"Oh the days are gone when Beauty bright"—"At the dead hour of night, when stars are weeping, I fly,"—and, "Through grief and through danger thy smile hath cheer'd my way."‡

PREFACE

TO

THE SIXTH VOLUME.

THE Poem, or Romance, of LALLA ROOKH, having now reached its twentieth edition, a short account of the origin and progress of a work which has been hitherto, at least, so very fortunate in its course, may not be deemed, perhaps, superfluous or misplaced.

It was about the year 1812 that, impelled far more by the encouraging suggestions of friends than impelled by any confident promptings of my own ambition, I was induced to attempt a Poem upon some Oriental subject, and of those quarto dimensions which Scott's late triumphs in that form had then rendered the regular poetical standard. A negotiation on the subject was opened with the Messrs. Longman in the same year, but, from some causes which have now escaped my recollection, led to no decisive result; nor was it till a year or two after, that any further steps were taken in the matter,—their house being the only one, it is right to add, with which, from first to

† The Epicurean had been published but the day before.

‡ I shall avail myself of this opportunity of noticing the charge brought by Mr. Bunting against Sir John Stevenson, of having made alterations in many of the airs that formed our Irish Collection. Whatever changes of this kind have been ventured upon (and they are but few and slight), the responsibility for them rests solely with me; as, leaving the Harmonist's department to my friend Stevenson, I reserved to myself entirely the selection and management of the airs.

last, I held any communication upon the subject.

On this last occasion, an old friend of mine, Mr. Perry, kindly offered to lend me the aid of his advice and presence in the interview which I was about to hold with the Messrs. Longman, for the arrangement of our mutual terms; and what with the friendly zeal of my negotiator on the one side, and the prompt and liberal spirit with which he was met on the other, there has seldom occurred any transaction in which Trade and Poesy have shone out so advantageously in each other's eyes. The short discussion that then took place, between the two parties, may be comprised in a very few sentences. "I am of opinion," said Mr. Perry,—enforcing his view of the case by arguments which it is not for me to cite,—"that Mr. Moore ought to receive for his Poem the largest price that has been given, in our day, for such a work." "That was," answered the Messrs. Longman, "three thousand guineas." "Exactly so," replied Mr. Perry, "and no less a sum ought he to receive."

It was then objected, and very reasonably, on the part of the firm, that they had never yet seen a single line of the Poem; and that a perusal of the work ought to be allowed to them, before they embarked so large a sum in the purchase. But, no;—the romantic view which my friend, Perry, took of the matter, was, that this price should be given as a tribute to reputation already acquired, without any condition for a previous perusal of the new work. This high tone, I must confess, not a little startled and alarmed me; but, to the honour and glory of Romance,—as well on the publisher's side as the poet's,—this very generous view of the transaction was, without any difficulty, acceded to, and the firm agreed, before we separated, that I was to receive three thousand guineas for my Poem.

At the time of this agreement, but little of the work, as it stands at present, had yet been written. But the ready confidence in my success shown by others, made up for the deficiency of that requisite feeling, within myself; while a strong desire not wholly to disappoint this "auguring hope," became almost a substitute for inspiration. In the year 1815, therefore, having made some progress in my task, I wrote to report the state of the work to the Messrs. Longman, adding, that I was now most willing and ready, should they desire it, to submit the manuscript for their consideration. Their answer to this offer was as follows:—"We are certainly impatient for the perusal of the Poem; but solely for our gratification. Your sentiments are always honourable."*

I continued to pursue my task for another year, being likewise occasionally occupied with the Irish Melodies, two or three numbers of which made their appearance, during the period employed in writing Lalla Rookh. At length, in the year 1816, I found my work sufficiently advanced to be placed in the hands of the publishers. But the state of distress to which England was reduced, in that dismal year, by the exhausting effects of the series of wars she had just then concluded, and the general embarrassment of all classes, both agricultural and commercial, rendered it a juncture the least favourable that could well be conceived for the first launch into print of so light and costly a venture as Lalla Rookh. Feeling conscious, therefore, that, under such circumstances, I should act but honestly in putting it in the power of the Messrs. Longman to reconsider the terms of their engagement with me,—leaving them free to postpone, modify, or even, should such be their wish, relinquish it altogether, I wrote them a letter to that effect, and received the following answer:—"We shall be most happy in the pleasure of seeing you in February. We agree with you, indeed, that the times are most inauspicious for 'poetry and thousands;' but we believe that your poetry would do more than that of any other living poet at the present moment."†

The length of time I employed in writing the few stories strung together in Lalla Rookh will appear, to some persons, much more than was necessary for the production of such easy and "light o'love" fictions. But, besides that I have been, at all times, a far more slow and pains-taking workman than would ever be guessed, I fear, from the result, I felt that, in this instance, I had taken upon myself a more than ordinary responsibility, from the immense stake risked by others on my chance

* April 10. 1815.

† November 9. 1816.

of success. For a long time, therefore, after the agreement had been concluded, though generally at work with a view to this task, I made but very little real progress in it, and I have still by me the beginnings of several stories, continued, some of them, to the length of three or four hundred lines, which, after in vain endeavouring to mould them into shape, I threw aside, like the tale of Cambuscan, "left half-told." One of these stories, entitled The Peri's Daughter, was meant to relate the loves of a nymph of this aërial extraction with a youth of mortal race, the rightful Prince of Ormuz, who had been, from his infancy, brought up, in seclusion, on the banks of the river Amou, by an aged guardian named Mohassan. The story opens with the first meeting of these destined lovers, then in their childhood; the Peri having wafted her daughter to this holy retreat, in a bright, enchanted boat, whose first appearance is thus described:—

* * * * *

For, down the silvery tide afar,
There came a boat, as swift and bright
As shines, in heav'n, some pilgrim-star,
That leaves its own high home, at night,
To shoot to distant shrines of light.

"It comes, it comes," young Orian cries,
And panting to Mohassan flies.
Then, down upon the flowery grass
Reclines to see the vision pass;
With partly joy and partly fear,
To find its wondrous light so near,
And hiding oft his dazzled eyes
Among the flowers on which he lies
* * * * *
Within the boat a baby slept,
Like a young pearl within its shell;
While one, who seem'd of riper years,
But not of earth, or earth-like spheres,
Her watch beside the slumberer kept;
Gracefully waving, in her hand,
The feathers of some holy bird,
With which, from time to time, she stirr'd
The fragrant air, and coolly fann'd
The baby's brow, or brush'd away
The butterflies that, bright and blue
As on the mountains of Malay,
Around the sleeping infant flew.

And now the fairy boat hath stopp'd
Beside the bank,—the nymph has dropp'd
Her golden anchor in the stream;
* * * * *

A song is sung by the Peri in approaching, of which the following forms a part:—

My child she is but half divine,
Her father sleeps in the Caspian water;
Sea-weeds twine
His funeral shrine,
But he lives again in the Peri's daughter.

Fain would I fly from mortal sight
To my own sweet bowers of Peristan;
But, there, the flowers are all too bright
For the eyes of a baby born of man.
On flowers of earth her feet must tread;
So hither my light-wing'd bark hath brought her;
Stranger, spread
Thy leafiest bed,
To rest the wandering Peri's daughter.

In another of these inchoate fragments, a proud female saint, named Banou, plays a principal part; and her progress through the streets of Cufa, on the night of a great illuminated festival, I find thus described:—

It was a scene of mirth that drew
A smile from ev'n the Saint Banou,
As, through the hush'd, admiring throng,
She went with stately steps along,
And counted o'er, that all might see,
The rubies of her rosary.
But none might see the worldly smile
That lurk'd beneath her veil, the while:—
Alla forbid! for, who would wait
Her blessing at the temple's gate,—
What holy man would ever run
To kiss the ground she knelt upon,
If once, by luckless chance, he knew
She look'd and smil'd as others do.
Her hands were join'd, and from each wrist
By threads of pearl and golden twist
Hung relics of the saints of yore,
And scraps of talismanic lore,—
Charms for the old, the sick, the frail,
Some made for use, and all for sale.
On either side, the crowd withdrew,
To let the Saint pass proudly through;
While turban'd heads, of every hue,
Green, white, and crimson, bow'd around,
And gay tiaras touch'd the ground,—
As tulip-bells, when o'er their beds
The musk-wind passes, bend their heads.
Nay, some there were, among the crowd
Of Moslem heads that round her bow'd,
So fill'd with zeal, by many a draught
Of Shiraz wine profanely quaff'd,
That, sinking low in reverence then,
They never rose till morn again.

There are yet two more of these unfinished sketches, one of which extends to a much greater length than I was aware of; and, as far as I can judge from a hasty renewal of my acquaintance with it, is not incapable of being yet turned to account.

In only one of these unfinished sketches, the tale of The Peri's Daughter, had I yet ventured to invoke that most home-felt of all my inspirations, which has lent to the story of The Fire-worshippers its main attraction and interest. That it was my intention, in the concealed Prince of Ormuz, to shadow out some impersonation of this feeling, I take for granted from the prophetic words supposed to be addressed to him by his aged guardian:—

Bright child of destiny! even now
I read the promise on that brow,
That tyrants shall no more defile
The glories of the Green-Sea Isle,
But Ormuz shall again be free,
And hail her native Lord in thee!

In none of the other fragments do I find any trace of this sort of feeling, either in the subject or the personages of the intended story; and this was the reason, doubtless, though hardly known, at the time, to myself, that, finding my subjects so slow in kindling my own sympathies, I began to despair of their ever touching the hearts of others; and felt often inclined to say,

"Oh no, I have no voice or hand
For such a song, in such a land."

Had this series of disheartening experiments been carried on much further, I must have thrown aside the work in despair. But, at last, fortunately, as it proved, the thought occurred to me of founding a story on the fierce struggle so long maintained between the Ghebers *, or ancient Fire-worshippers of Persia, and their haughty Moslem masters. From that moment, a new and deep interest in my whole task took possession of me. The cause of tolerance was again my inspiring theme; and the spirit that had spoken in the melodies of Ireland soon found itself at home in the East.

Having thus laid open the secrets of the workshop to account for the time expended in *writing* this work, I must also, in justice to my own industry, notice the pains I took in long and laboriously *reading* for it. To form a storehouse, as it were, of illustration purely Oriental, and so familiarise myself with its various treasures, that, as quick as Fancy, in her airy spiritings, required the assistance of fact, the memory was ready, like another Ariel, at her "strong bidding," to furnish materials for the spell-work,—such was, for a long while, the sole object of my studies; and whatever time and trouble this preparatory process may have cost me, the effects resulting from it, as far as the humble merit of truthfulness is concerned, have been such as to repay me more than sufficiently for my pains. I have not forgotten how great was my pleasure, when told by the late Sir James Mackintosh, that he was once asked by Colonel Wilks, the historian of British India, "whether it was true that Moore had never been in the East?" "Never," answered Mackintosh. "Well, that shows me," replied Colonel Wilks, "that reading over D'Herbelot is as good as riding on the back of a camel."

I need hardly subjoin to this lively speech, that although D'Herbelot's valuable work was, of course, one of my manuals, I took the whole range of all such Oriental reading as was accessible to me; and became, for the time, indeed, far more conversant with all relating to that distant region, than I have ever been with the scenery, productions, or modes of life of any of those countries lying most within my reach. We know that D'Anville, though never in his life out of Paris, was able to correct a number of errors in a plan of the Troad taken by De Choiseul, on the spot; and, for my own very different, as well as far inferior, purposes, the knowledge I had thus acquired of distant localities, seen only by me in day-dreams, was no less ready and useful.

An ample reward for all this painstaking has been found in such welcome tributes as I have just cited; nor can I deny myself the gratification of citing a few more of the same description. From another distinguished authority on Eastern subjects, the late Sir John Malcolm, I had myself the pleasure of hearing a similar opinion publicly expressed;—that eminent person having remarked, in a speech spoken by him at a Literary Fund Dinner, that together with those qualities of the poet which he much too partially assigned to me was combined also "the truth of the historian."

Sir William Ouseley, another high authority, in giving his testimony to the same effect, thus notices an exception to the general accuracy for which he gives me credit:—"Dazzled by the beauties of this composition †, few readers can perceive, and none surely can regret, that the poet, in his magnificent catastrophe, has forgotten, or boldly and most happily violated, the precept of Zoroaster, above noticed, which held it impious to consume any portion of a human body by fire, especially by that which

* Voltaire, in his tragedy of "Les Guèbres," written with a similar under-current of meaning, was accused of having transformed his Fire-worshippers into Jansenists:—"Quelques figuristes," he says, "prétendent que les Guèbres sont les Jansenistes."

† The Fire-worshippers.

glowed upon their altars." Having long lost, I fear, most of my Eastern learning, I can only cite, in defence of my catastrophe, an old Oriental tradition, which relates that Nimrod, when Abraham refused, at his command, to worship the fire, ordered him to be thrown into the midst of the flames.* A precedent so ancient for this sort of use of the worshipped element, appears, for all purposes at least of poetry, to be fully sufficient.

In addition to these agreeable testimonies, I have also heard, and, need hardly add, with some pride and pleasure, that parts of this work have been rendered into Persian, and have found their way to Ispahan. To this fact, as I am willing to think it, allusion is made in some lively verses, written many years since, by my friend, Mr. Luttrell:—

> "I'm told, dear Moore, your lays are sung,
> (Can it be true, you lucky man?)
> By moonlight, in the Persian tongue,
> Along the streets of Ispahan."

That some knowledge of the work may have really reached that region, appears not improbable from a passage in the Travels of Mr. Frazer, who says, that "being delayed for some time at a town on the shores of the Caspian, he was lucky enough to be able to amuse himself with a copy of Lalla Rookh, which a Persian had lent him."

Of the description of Balbec, in "Paradise and the Peri," Mr. Carne, in his Letters from the East, thus speaks: "The description in Lalla Rookh of the plain and its ruins is exquisitely faithful. The minaret is on the declivity near at hand, and there wanted only the muezzin's cry to break the silence."

I shall now tax my readers' patience with but one more of these generous vouchers. Whatever of vanity there may be in citing such tributes, they show, at least, of what great value, even in poetry, is that prosaic quality, industry; since, as the reader of the foregoing pages is now fully apprized, it was in a slow and laborious collection of small facts, that the first foundations of this fanciful Romance were laid.

The friendly testimony I have just referred to, appeared, some years since, in the form in which I now give it, and, if I recollect right, in the Athenæum:—

"I embrace this opportunity of bearing my individual testimony (if it be of any value) to the extraordinary accuracy of Mr. Moore, in his topographical, antiquarian, and characteristic details, whether of costume, manners, or less-changing monuments, both in his Lalla Rookh and in the Epicurean. It has been my fortune to read his Atlantic, Bermudean, and American Odes and Epistles, in the countries and among the people to which and to whom they related; I enjoyed also the exquisite delight of reading his Lalla Rookh, in Persia itself; and I have perused the Epicurean, while all my recollections of Egypt and its still existing wonders are as fresh as when I quitted the banks of the Nile for Arabia:—I owe it, therefore, as a debt of gratitude (though the payment is most inadequate), for the great pleasure I have derived from his productions, to bear my humble testimony to their local fidelity.

"J. S. B."

Among the incidents connected with this work, I must not omit to notice the splendid Divertissement, founded upon it, which was acted at the Château Royal of Berlin, during the visit of the Grand Duke Nicholas to that capital, in the year 1822. The different stories composing the work were represented in Tableaux Vivans and songs; and among the crowd of royal and noble personages engaged in the performances, I shall mention those only who represented the principal characters, and whom I find thus enumerated in the published account of the Divertissement.†

"Fadladin, Grand-Nasir	*Comte Haack, (Maréchal de Cour).*
Aliris, Roi de Bucharie	*S. A. I. Le Grand Duc.*
Lalla Roûkh	*S. A. I. La Grand Duchesse.*
Aurungzeb, le Grand Mogol	*S. A. R. Le Prince Guillaume, frère du Roi.*
Abdallah, Père d'Aliris	*S. A. R. Le Duc de Cumberland.*
La Reine, son épouse	*S. A. R. La Princesse Louise Radzivill."*

Besides these and other leading personages,

* Tradunt autem Hebræi hanc fabulam quod Abraham in ignem missus sit quia ignem adorare noluit. — ST. HIERON. *in Quæst. in Genesim.*

† Lalla Roûkh, Divertissement mêlé de Chants et de Danses, Berlin, 1822. The work contains a series of coloured engravings, representing groups, processions, &c., in different Oriental costumes.

there were also brought into action, under the various denominations of Seigneurs et Dames de Bucharie, Dames de Cachemire, Seigneurs et Dames dansans à la Fête des Roses, &c. nearly 150 persons.

Of the manner and style in which the Tableaux of the different stories are described in the work from which I cite, the following account of the performance of Paradise and the Peri will afford some specimen:—

"La décoration répresentoit les portes brillantes du Paradis, entourées de nuages. Dans le premier tableau on voyoit la Péri, triste et desolée, couchée sur le seuil des portes fermées, et l'Ange de lumière qui lui addresse des consolations et des conseils. Le second représente le moment, où la Peri, dans l'espoir que ce don lui ouvrira l'entrée du Paradis recueille la dernière goutte de sang que vient de verser le jeune guerrier Indien. . . . . .

"La Péri et l'Ange de lumière répondoient pleinement à l'image et à l'idée qu'on est tenté de se faire de ces deux individus, et l'impression qu'a faite généralement la suite des tableaux de cet épisode délicat et intéressant est loin de s'effacer de notre souvenir."

In this grand Fête, it appears, originated the translation of Lalla Rookh into German verse, by the Baron de la Motte Fouqué; and the circumstances which led him to undertake the task, are described by himself, in a Dedicatory Poem to the Empress of Russia, which he has prefixed to his translation. As soon as the performance, he tells us, had ended, Lalla Rookh (the Empress herself) exclaimed, with a sigh, "Is it, then, all over? are we now at the close of all that has given us so much delight? and lives there no poet who will impart to others, and to future times, some notion of the happiness we have enjoyed this evening?" On hearing this appeal, a Knight of Cachmere (who is no other than the poetical Baron himself) comes forward and promises to attempt to present to the world "the Poem itself in the measure of the original:"—whereupon Lalla Rookh, it is added, approvingly smiled.

PREFACE
TO
THE SEVENTH VOLUME.

The station assigned to "The Fudge Family," in the following pages, immediately after Lalla Rookh, agrees but too closely with the actual order in which these two works were originally written and published. The success, far exceeding my hopes and deserts, with which Lalla Rookh was immediately crowned, relieved me at once from the anxious feeling of responsibility under which, as my readers have seen, that enterprise had been commenced, and which continued for some time to haunt me amidst all the enchantments of my task. I was therefore in the true holyday mood, when a dear friend, with whose name is associated some of the brightest and pleasantest hours of my past life*, kindly offered me a seat in his carriage for a short visit to Paris. This proposal I, of course, most gladly accepted; and, in the autumn of the year 1817, found myself, for the first time, in that gay capital.

As the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty was still of too recent a date for any amalgamation to have yet taken place between the new and ancient order of things, all the most prominent features of both *régimes* were just then brought, in their fullest relief, into juxtaposition; and, accordingly, the result was such as to suggest to an unconcerned spectator quite as abundant matter for ridicule as for grave political consideration. It would be difficult, indeed, to convey to those who had not themselves seen the Paris of that period, any clear notion of the anomalous aspect, both social and political, which it then presented. It was as if, in the days succeeding the Deluge, a small coterie of antediluvians had been suddenly evoked from out of the deep to take the command of a new and freshly starting world.

To me, the abundant amusement and interest which such a scene could not but afford was a good deal heightened by my having, in my youthful days, been made acquainted with some of those personages who were now most interested in the future success of the Legitimate

* Mr. Rogers.

cause. The Comte D'Artois, or Monsieur, I had met in the year 1802–3, at Donington Park, the seat of the Earl of Moira, under whose princely roof I used often and long, in those days, to find a most hospitable home. A small party of distinguished French emigrants were already staying on a visit in the house when Monsieur and his suite arrived; and among those were the present King of France and his two brothers, the Duc de Montpensier, and the Comte de Beaujolais.

Some doubt and uneasiness had, I remember, been felt by the two latter brothers, as to the reception they were likely to encounter from the new guest; and as, in those times, a cropped and unpowdered head was regarded generally as a symbol of Jacobinism, the Comte Beaujolais, who, like many other young men, wore his hair in this fashion, thought it, on the present occasion, most prudent, in order to avoid all risk of offence, not only to put powder in his hair, but also to provide himself with an artificial queue. This measure of precaution, however, led to a slight incident after dinner, which, though not very royal or dignified, was at least creditable to the social good-humour of the future Charles X. On the departure of the ladies from the dining-room, we had hardly seated ourselves in the old-fashioned style, round the fire, when Monsieur, who had happened to place himself next to Beaujolais, caught a glimpse of the ascititious tail,—which, having been rather carelessly put on, had a good deal straggled out of its place. With a sort of scream of jocular pleasure, as if delighted at the discovery, Monsieur seized the stray appendage, and, bringing it round into full view, to the great amusement of the whole company, popped it into poor grinning Beaujolais' mouth.

On one of the evenings of this short visit of Monsieur, I remember Curran arriving unexpectedly, on his way to London; and, having come too late for dinner, he joined our party in the evening. As the foreign portion of the company was then quite new to him, I was able to be useful, by informing him of the names, rank, and other particulars of the party he found assembled, from Monsieur himself, down to the old Duc de Lorge and the Baron de Rolle. When I had gone through the whole list, "Ah, poor fellows!" he exclaimed, with a mixture of fun and pathos in his look, truly Irish, "Poor fellows, *all* dismounted cavalry!"

On the last evening of Monsieur's stay, I was made to sing for him, among other songs, "Farewell Bessy!" one of my earliest attempts at musical composition. As soon as I had finished, he paid me the compliment of reading aloud the words as written under the music; and most royal havoc did he make, as to this day I well remember, of whatever little sense or metre they could boast.

Among my earlier poetic writings, more than one grateful memorial may be found of the happy days I passed in this hospitable mansion*,—

> Of all my sunny morns and moonlight nights
> On Donington's green lawns and breezy heights.

But neither verse nor prose could do any justice to the sort of impression I still retain of those long-vanished days. The library at Donington was† extensive and valuable; and through the privilege kindly granted to me of retiring thither for study, even when the family were absent, I frequently passed whole weeks alone in that fine library, indulging in all the first airy castle-building of authorship. The various projects, indeed, of future works that used then to pass in fruitless succession through my mind, can be compared only to the waves as described by the poet,—

> "And one no sooner touch'd the shore, and died,
> Than a new follower rose."

With that library is also connected another of my earlier poems,—the verses addressed to the Duke of Montpensier on his portrait of the Lady Adelaide Forbes‡; for it was there that this truly noble lady, then in the first dawn of her beauty, used to sit for that picture; while, in another part of the library, the Duke of Orleans,—engaged generally at that time with a volume of Clarendon,—was by such studies unconsciously preparing himself for the high and arduous destiny, which not only the Good

* See p. 128. of this edition.

† In employing the past tense here, I do the present lord injustice, whose filial wish I know it is to keep all at Donington exactly as his noble father left it.

‡ See p. 92. of this edition.

Genius of France, but his own sagacious and intrepid spirit, had early marked out for him.

I need hardly say how totally different were all the circumstances under which Monsieur himself and some of his followers were again seen by me in the year 1817;—the same actors, indeed, but with an entirely new change of scenery and decorations. Among the variety of aspects presented by this change, the ridiculous certainly predominated; nor could a satirist who, like Philoctetes, was smitten with a fancy for shooting at geese*, ask any better supply of such game than the high places, in France, at that period, both lay and ecclesiastical, afforded. Not being versed, however, sufficiently in French politics to venture to meddle with them, even in sport, I found a more ready conductor of laughter—for which I was then much in the mood—in those groups of ridiculous English who were at that time swarming in all directions throughout Paris, and of all whose various forms of cockneyism and nonsense I endeavoured, in the personages of the Fudge Family, to collect the concentrated essence. The result, as usual, fell very far short of what I had myself preconceived and intended. But, making its appearance at such a crisis, the work brought with it that best seasoning of all such *jeux-d'esprit*, the *à-propos* of the moment; and, accordingly, in the race of successive editions, Lalla Rookh was, for some time, kept pace with by Miss Biddy Fudge.

The series of trifles contained in this volume, entitled "Rhymes on the Road," were written partly as their title implies, and partly at a subsequent period from memorandums made on the spot. This will account for so many of those pieces being little better, I fear, than "prose fringed with rhyme." The journey to a part of which those Rhymes owed their existence was commenced in company with Lord John Russell in the autumn of the year 1819. After a week or two passed at Paris, to enable Lord John to refer to Barillon's Letters for a new edition of his Life of Lord Russell then preparing, we set out together for the Simplon. At Milan, the agreeable society of the late Lord Kinnaird detained us for a few days; and then my companion took the route to Genoa, while I proceeded on a visit to Lord Byron, at Venice.

It was during the journey, thus briefly described, I addressed the well-known Remonstrance to my noble friend†, which has of late been frequently coupled with my prophetic verses on the Duke of Wellington ‡, from the prescient spirit with which it so confidently looked forward to all that Lord John has since become in the eyes of the world.

Of my visit to Lord Byron,—an event, to me so memorable,—I have already detailed all the most interesting particulars in my published Life of the poet; and shall here only cite, from that work, one passage, as having some reference to a picture mentioned in the following pages. "As we were conversing after dinner about the various collections of paintings I had seen that morning, on my saying that, fearful as I was of ever praising any picture, lest I should draw on myself the connoisseur's sneer, for my pains, I would yet, to him, venture to own that I had seen a picture at Milan, which——'The Hagar!' § he exclaimed, eagerly interrupting me; and it was, in fact, that very picture I was about to mention to him as having awakened in me, by the truth of its expression, more real emotion than any I had yet seen among the *chefs-d'œuvre* of Venice."

In the society I chiefly lived with, while at Rome, I considered myself singularly fortunate; though but a blind and uninitiated worshipper of those powers of Art of which my companions were all high-priests. Canova himself, Chantrey, Lawrence, Jackson, Turner, Eastlake,—such were the men of whose presence and guidance I enjoyed the advantage in visiting all that unrivalled Rome can boast of beautiful and grand. That I derived from this course of tuition any thing more than a very humbling consciousness of my own ignorance and want of taste, in matters of art, I will not be so dishonest as to pretend. But, to the stranger in Rome every step forms an epoch; and, in addition to all its own countless appeals to memory and imagination, the agreeable auspices under which I first visited all its memorable places

* "Pinnigero, non armigero in corpore tela exerceantur;" the words put by Accius in the mouth of Philoctetes.

† See Miscellaneous Poems. ‡ See p. 194. of this edition.
§ Abraham dismissing Hagar, by Guercino.

could not but render every impression I received more vivid and permanent. Thus, with my recollection of the Sepulchre of St. Peter, and its ever-burning lamps, for which splendid spot Canova was then meditating a statue *, there is always connected in my mind the exclamation which I heard break from Chantrey after gazing, for a few moments, in silence, upon that glorious site,—"What a place to work for!"

In one of the poems contained in this volume† allusion is made to an evening not easily forgotten, when Chantrey and myself were taken by Canova to the Borghese Palace, for the purpose of showing us, by the light of a taper—his favourite mode of exhibiting that work—his beautiful statue of the Princess Borghese, called the Venere Vincitrice. In Chantrey's eagerness to point out some grace or effect that peculiarly struck him, he snatched the light out of Canova's hand; and to this circumstance the following passage of the poem referred to was meant to allude:—

> When he, thy peer in art and fame,
> Hung o'er the marble with delight;‡
> And, while his ling'ring hand would steal
> O'er every grace the taper's rays,
> Gave thee, with all the gen'rous zeal
> Such master-spirits only feel,
> The best of fame—a rival's praise.

One of the days that still linger most pleasantly in my memory, and which, I trust, neither Lady Calcott nor Mr. Eastlake have quite forgotten, was that of our visit together to the Palatine Mount, when, as we sauntered about that picturesque spot, enjoying the varied views of Rome which it commands, they made me, for the first time, acquainted with Guidi's spirited Ode on the Arcadians, in which there is poetry enough to make amends for all the nonsense of his rhyming brethren. Truly and grandly does he exclaim,—

> "Indomita e superba ancor è Roma
> Benchè si veggià col gran busto a terra;
> * * * * *
> Son piene di splendor le sue ruine,
> E il gran cenere suo si mostra eterno."

With Canova, while sitting to Jackson for a portrait ordered by Chantrey, I had more than once some interesting conversation,—or, rather, listened while he spoke,—respecting the political state of Europe at that period, and those "briccoui," as he styled them, the sovereigns of the Holy Alliance; and, before I left Rome, he kindly presented to me a set of engravings from some of his finest statues, together with a copy of the beautifully printed collection of Poems, which a Roman poet, named Missirini, had written in praise of his different "Marmi."

When Lord John Russell and myself parted, at Milan, it was agreed between us, that after a short visit to Rome, and (if practicable within the allowed time) to Naples, I was to rejoin him at Genoa, and from thence accompany him to England. But the early period for which Parliament was summoned, that year, owing to the violent proceedings at Manchester, rendered it necessary for Lord John to hasten his return to England. I was, therefore, most fortunate, under such circumstances, in being permitted by my friends Chantrey and Jackson to join in their journey homeward; through which lucky arrangement, the same precious privilege I had enjoyed, at Rome, of hearing the opinions of such practised judges, on all the great works of art I saw in their company, was continued afterwards to me through the various collections we visited together, at Florence, Bologna, Modena, Parma, Milan, and Turin.

To some of those pictures and statues that most took my fancy, during my tour, allusions will be found in a few of the poems contained in this volume. But the great pleasure I derived from these and many other such works arose far more from the poetical nature of their subjects than from any judgment I had learned to form of their real merit as works of art,—a line of lore in which, notwithstanding my course of schooling, I remained, I fear, unenlightened to the last. For all that was lost upon me, however, in the halls of Art, I was more than consoled in the cheap picture-gallery of Nature; and a glorious sunset I witnessed in ascending the Simplon is still remembered by me with a depth and freshness of feeling which no one work of art I saw in the galleries of Italy has left behind.

I have now a few words to devote to a somewhat kindred subject, with which a poem or

* A statue, I believe, of Pius VI.

† See Rhymes on the Road, Extr. xv.

‡ A slight alteration here has rendered these verses more true to the actual fact than they were in their original form.

two contained in the following pages are closely connected.* In my Preface to the First Volume of this collection, I briefly noticed the taste for Private Theatrical Performances which prevailed during the latter half of the last century among the higher ranks in Ireland. This taste continued for nearly twenty years to survive the epoch of the Union, and in the performances of the Private Theatre of Kilkenny gave forth its last, as well as, perhaps, brightest flashes. The life and soul of this institution was our manager, the late Mr. Richard Power, a gentleman who could boast a larger circle of attached friends, and through a life more free from shadow or alloy, than any individual it has ever been my lot to know. No livelier proof, indeed, could be required of the sort of feeling entertained towards him than was once shown in the reception given to the two following homely lines which occurred in a Prologue I wrote to be spoken by Mr. Corry in the character of Vapid.

'Tis said our worthy manager intends
To help my night, and *he*, you know, has friends.†

These few simple words I wrote with the assured conviction that they would produce more effect, from the homefelt truism they contained, than could be effected by the most laboured burst of eloquence; and the result was just what I had anticipated, for the house rung, for a considerable time, with the heartiest plaudits.

The chief comic, or rather farcical, force of the company lay in my friend Mr. Corry, and "longo intervallo," myself; and though, as usual, with low comedians, we were much looked down upon by the lofty lords of the buskin, many was the sly joke we used to indulge together, at the expense of our heroic brethren. Some waggish critic, indeed, is said to have declared that of all the personages of our theatre he most admired the prompter,—"because he was least seen and best heard." But this joke was, of course, a mere good-humoured slander. There were two, at least, of our dramatic corps, Sir Wrixon Becher and Mr. Rothe, whose powers, as tragic actors, few amateurs have ever equalled; and Mr. Corry—perhaps alone of all our company—would have been sure of winning laurels on the public stage.

As to my own share in these representations, the following list of my most successful characters will show how remote from the line of the Heroic was the small orbit through which I ranged; my chief parts having been Sam, in "Raising the Wind," Robin Roughhead, Mungo, Sadi, in the "Mountaineers," Spado, and Peeping Tom. In the part of Spado there occur several allusions to that gay rogue's shortness of stature, which never failed to be welcomed by my auditors with laughter and cheers; and the words "Even Sanguino allows I am a clever little fellow" was always a signal for this sort of friendly explosion. One of the songs, indeed, written by O'Keefe for the character of Spado so much abounds with points thus personally applicable, that many supposed, with no great compliment either to my poetry or my modesty, that the song had been written, expressly for the occasion, by myself. The following is the verse to which I allude, and for the poetry of which I was thus made responsible:—

"Though born to be little's my fate,
Yet so was the great Alexander;
And, when I walk under a gate,
I've no need to stoop like a gander.
I'm no lanky, long hoddy-doddy,
Whose paper-kite sails in the sky;
Though wanting two feet, in my body,
In soul, I am thirty feet high."

Some further account of the Kilkenny Theatre, as well as of the history of Private Theatricals in general, will be found in an article I wrote on the subject for the Edinburgh Review, vol. xlvi. No. 92. p. 368.

PREFACE
TO
THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

On my return from the interesting visit to Rome, of which some account has been given in the preceding Preface, I took up my abode in Paris, and, being joined there by my family, continued to reside in that capital, or its en-

* See page 456.

† See page 456.

virons, till about the close of the year 1822. As no life, however sunny, is without its clouds, I could not escape, of course, my share of such passing shadows; and this long estrangement from our happy English home, towards which my family yearned even more fondly than myself, had been caused by difficulties of a pecuniary nature, and to a large amount, in which I had been involved by the conduct of the person who acted as my deputy in the small office I held at Bermuda.

That I should ever have come to be chosen for such an employment seems one of those freaks or anomalies of human destiny which baffle all ordinary speculation; and went far, indeed, to realise Beaumarchais' notion of the sort of standard by which, too frequently, qualification for place is regulated,—"Il fallut un calculateur; ce fut un danseur qui l'obtint."

But however much, in this instance, I suffered from my want of schooling in matters of business, and more especially from my having neglected the ordinary precaution of requiring security from my deputy, I was more than consoled for all such embarrassment, were it even ten times as much, by the eager kindness with which friends pressed forward to help to release me from my difficulties. Could I venture to name the persons,—and they were many,—who thus volunteered their aid, it would be found they were all of them men whose characters enhanced such a service, and that, in all, the name and the act reflected honour upon each other.

I shall so far lift the veil in which such delicate generosity seeks to shroud itself, as to mention briefly the manner in which one of these kind friends,—himself possessing but limited means,—proposed to contribute to the object of releasing me from my embarrassments. After adverting, in his letter, to my misfortunes, and "the noble way," as he was pleased to say, "in which I bore them," he adds,—"would it be very impertinent to say, that I have 500*l.* entirely at your disposal, to be paid when you like; and as much more that I could advance, upon any reasonable security, payable in seven years?" The writer concludes by apologising anxiously and delicately for "the liberty which he thus takes," assuring me that "he would not have made the offer if he did not feel that he would most readily accept the same assistance from me." I select this one instance from among the many which that trying event of my life enables me to adduce, both on account of the deliberate feeling of manly regard which it manifests, and also from other considerations which it would be out of place here to mention, but which rendered so genuine a mark of friendship from such a quarter peculiarly touching and welcome to me.

When such were the men who hastened to my aid in this emergency, I need hardly say, it was from no squeamish pride,—for the pride would have been in receiving favours from such hands,—that I came to the resolution of gratefully declining their offers, and endeavouring to work out my deliverance by my own efforts. With a credit still fresh in the market of literature, and with publishers ready as ever to risk their thousands on my name, I could not but feel that, however gratifying was the generous zeal of such friends, I should best show that I, in some degree, deserved their offers, by declining, under such circumstances, to accept them.

Meanwhile, an attachment had issued against me from the Court of Admiralty; and as a negotiation was about to be opened with the American claimants, for a reduction of their large demand upon me,—supposed, at that time, to amount to six thousand pounds,—it was deemed necessary that, pending the treaty, I should take up my abode in France.

To write for the means of daily subsistence, and even in most instances to "forestall the slow harvest of the brain," was for me, unluckily, no novel task. But I had now, in addition to these home calls upon the Muse, a new, painful, and, in its first aspect, overwhelming exigence to provide for; and, certainly, Paris, swarming throughout as it was, at that period, with rich, gay, and dissipated English, was, to a person of my social habits and multifarious acquaintance, the very worst possible place that could have been resorted to for even the semblance of a quiet or studious home. The only tranquil, and, therefore, to me, most precious portions of that period were the two summers passed by my family and myself with our kind Spanish friends, the V*******ls, at their beautiful place, La Butte Coaslin, on the road up to Bellevue. There, in a cottage belonging to M. V*******l, and but a

few steps from his house, we contrived to conjure up an apparition of Sloperton*; and I was able for some time to work with a feeling of comfort and home. I used frequently to pass the morning in rambling alone through the noble park of St. Cloud, with no apparatus for the work of authorship but my memorandum-book and pencils, forming sentences to run smooth and moulding verses into shape. In the evenings I generally joined with Madame V * * * * * * * l in Italian duetts, or, with far more pleasure, sat as listener, while she sung to the Spanish guitar those sweet songs of her own country to which few voices could do such justice.

One of the pleasant circumstances connected with our summer visits to La Butte was the near neighbourhood of our friend, Mr. Kenny, the lively dramatic writer, who was lodged picturesquely in the remains of the Palace of the King's Aunts, at Bellevue. I remember, on my first telling Kenny the particulars of my Bermuda mishap, his saying, after a pause of real feeling, "Well,—it's lucky you're a poet; —a philosopher never could have borne it." Washington Irving also was, for a short time, our visiter; and still recollects, I trust, his reading to me some parts of his then forthcoming work, Bracebridge Hall, as we sat together on the grass walk that leads to the Rocher, at La Butte.

Among the writings, then but in embryo, to which I looked forward for the means of my enfranchisement, one of the most important, as well as most likely to be productive, was my intended Life of Sheridan. But I soon found that, at such a distance from all those living authorities from whom alone I could gain any interesting information respecting the private life of one who left behind him so little epistolary correspondence, it would be wholly impossible to proceed satisfactorily with this task. Accordingly I wrote to Mr. Murray and Mr. Wilkie, who were at that time the intended publishers of the work, to apprize them of this temporary obstacle to its progress.

Being thus baffled in the very first of the few resources I had looked to, I next thought of a Romance in verse, in the form of Letters, or Epistles; and with this view sketched out a story, on an Egyptian subject, differing not much from that which, some years after, formed the groundwork of the Epicurean. After labouring, however, for some months, at this experiment, amidst interruption, dissipation, and distraction, which might well put all the Nine Muses to flight, I gave up the attempt in despair;—fully convinced of the truth of that warning conveyed in some early verses of my own, addressed to the Invisible Girl:—

> Oh hint to the bard, 'tis retirement alone
> Can hallow its harp or ennoble its tone:
> Like you, with a veil of seclusion between,
> His song to the world let him utter unseen,
> &c. &c.†

It was, indeed, to the secluded life I led during the years 1813—1816, in a lone cottage among the fields, in Derbyshire, that I owed the inspiration, whatever may have been its value, of some of the best and most popular portions of Lalla Rookh. It was amidst the snows of two or three Derbyshire winters that I found myself enabled, by that concentration of thought which retirement alone gives, to call up around me some of the sunniest of those Eastern scenes which have since been welcomed in India itself, as almost native to its clime.

But, abortive as had now been all my efforts to woo the shy spirit of Poesy, amidst such unquiet scenes, the course of reading I found time to pursue, on the subject of Egypt, was of no small service in storing my mind with the various knowledge respecting that country, which some years later I turned to account, in writing the story of the Epicurean. The kind facilities, indeed, towards this object, which some of the most distinguished French scholars and artists afforded me, are still remembered by me with thankfulness. Besides my old acquaintance, Denon, whose drawings of Egypt, then of some value, I frequently consulted, I found Mons. Fourier and Mons. Langlès no less prompt in placing books at my disposal. With Humboldt, also, who was at that time in Paris, I had more than once some conversation on the subject of Egypt, and remember his expressing himself in no very laudatory terms respecting the labours of the French *savans* in that country.

I had now been foiled and frustrated in two

* "A little cot, with trees arow,
And, like its master, very low."
Pope.

† See p. 71. of this edition.

of those literary projects on which I had counted most sanguinely in the calculation of my resources; and, though I had found sufficient time to furnish my musical publisher with the Eighth Number of the Irish Melodies, and also a Number of the National Airs, these works alone, I knew, would yield but an insufficient supply, compared with the demands so closely and threateningly hanging over me. In this difficulty I called to mind a subject,—the Eastern allegory of the Loves of the Angels,—on which I had, some years before, begun a prose story, but in which, as a theme for poetry, I had now been anticipated by Lord Byron, in one of the most sublime of his many poetical miracles, "Heaven and Earth." Knowing how soon I should be lost in the shadow into which so gigantic a precursor would cast me, I had endeavoured, by a speed of composition which must have astonished my habitually slow pen, to get the start of my noble friend in the time of publication, and thus afforded myself the sole chance I could perhaps expect, under such unequal rivalry, of attracting to my work the attention of the public. In this humble speculation, however, I failed; for both works, if I recollect right, made their appearance at the same time.

In the meanwhile, the negotiation which had been entered into with the American claimants, for a reduction of the amount of their demands upon me, had continued to "drag its slow length along;" nor was it till the month of September, 1822, that, by a letter from the Messrs. Longman, I received the welcome intelligence that the terms offered, as our ultimatum, to the opposite party, had been at last accepted, and that I might now with safety return to England. I lost no time, of course, in availing myself of so welcome a privilege; and as all that remains now to be told of this trying episode in my past life may be comprised within a small compass, I shall trust to the patience of my readers for tolerating the recital.

On arriving in England I learned, for the first time,—having been, till then, kept very much in darkness on the subject,—that, after a long and frequently interrupted course of negotiation, the amount of the claims of the American merchants had been reduced to the sum of one thousand guineas, and that towards the payment of this the uncle of my deputy,—a rich London merchant,—had been brought, with some difficulty, to contribute three hundred pounds. I was likewise informed, that a very dear and distinguished friend of mine, to whom, by his own desire, the state of the negotiation was, from time to time, reported, had, upon finding that there appeared, at last, some chance of an arrangement, and learning also the amount of the advance made by my deputy's relative, immediately deposited in the hands of a banker the remaining portion (750*l.*) of the required sum, to be there in readiness for the final settlement of the demand.

Though still adhering to my original purpose of owing to my own exertions alone the means of relief from these difficulties, I yet felt a pleasure in allowing this thoughtful deposit to be applied to the generous purpose for which it was destined; and having employed in this manner the 750*l.*, I then transmitted to my kind friend,—I need hardly say with what feelings of thankfulness,—a cheque on my publishers for the amount.

Though this effort of the poet's purse was but, as usual, a new launch into the Future,—a new anticipation of yet unborn means,—the result showed that, at least in *this* instance, I had not counted on my bank "*in nubibus*" too sanguinely; for, on receiving my publishers' account, in the month of June following, I found 1000*l.* placed to my credit from the sale of the Loves of the Angels, and 500*l.* from the Fables of the Holy Alliance.

I must not omit to mention, that, among the resources at that time placed at my disposal, was one small and sacred sum, which had been set apart by its young possessor for some such beneficent purpose. This fund, amounting to about 300*l.*, arose from the proceeds of the sale of the first edition of a biographical work, then recently published, which will long be memorable, as well from its own merits and subject, as from the lustre that has been since shed back upon it from the public career of its noble author. To a gift from such hands might well have been applied the words of Ovid,

——— acceptissima semper
Munera sunt, auctor quæ pretiosa facit.

In this volume, and its immediate successor, will be found collected almost all those delinquencies of mine, in the way of satire, which have appeared, from time to time, in the pub-

lic journals, during the last twenty or thirty years. The comments and notices required to throw light on these political trifles must be reserved for our next volume.

PREFACE
TO
THE NINTH VOLUME.

In one of those Notices, no less friendly than they are able and spirited, which this new Edition of my Poetical Works has called forth from a leading political journal, I find, in reference to the numerous satirical pieces contained in these volumes, the following suggestion*:—"It is now more than a quarter of a century since this bundle of political pasquinades set the British public in a roar; and though the events to which they allude may be well known to every reader,

"Cujus octavum trepidavit ætas
Claudere lustrum,"

there are many persons, now forming a part of the literary public, who have come into existence since they happened, and who cannot be expected, even if they had the leisure and opportunity to rummage the files of our old newspapers for a history of the perishable facts on which Mr. Moore has so often rested the flying artillery of his wit. Many of those facts will be considered beneath the notice of the grave historian; and it is, therefore, incumbent on Mr. Moore—if he wishes his political squibs, imbued as they are with a wit and humour quite Aristophanic, to be relished, as they deserve to be relished, by our great-grandchildren—to preface them with a rapid summary of the events which gave them birth."

Without pausing here to say how gratifying it is to me to find my long course of Anti-Tory warfare thus tolerantly, and even generously spoken of, and by so distinguished an organ of public opinion, I shall as briefly as I can, advert to the writer's friendly suggestion, and then mention some of those reasons which have induced me to adopt it. That I was disposed, at first, to annex some such commentary to this series of squibs, may have been collected from the concluding sentences of my last Preface; but a little further consideration has led me to abandon this intention.

To that kind of satire which deals only with the lighter follies of social life, with the passing modes, whims, and scandal of the day, such illustrative comments become, after a short time, necessary. But the true preserving salt of political satire is its applicability to future times and generations, as well as to those which had first called it forth; its power of transmitting the scourge of ridicule through succeeding periods, with a lash still fresh for the back of the bigot and the oppressor, under whatever new shape they may present themselves. I can hardly flatter myself with the persuasion that any one of the satirical pieces contained in this Volume is likely to possess this principle of vitality; but I feel quite certain that, *without* it, not all the notes and illustrations in which even the industry of Dutch commentatorship could embalm them would insure to these trifles a life much beyond the present hour.

Already, to many of them, that sort of relish—by far the least worthy source of their success—which the names of *living* victims lend to such sallies, has become, in the course of time, wanting. But, as far as their appositeness to the passing political events of the day has yet been tried—and the dates of these satires range over a period of nearly thirty years—their ridicule, thanks to the undying nature of human absurdity, appears to have lost, as yet, but little of the original freshness of its first application. Nor is this owing to any peculiar felicity of aim, in the satire itself, but to the sameness, throughout that period, of all its original objects;—the unchangeable nature of that spirit of Monopoly by which, under all its various impersonations, commercial, religious, and political, these satires had been first provoked. To refer but to one instance, the Corn Question,—assuredly, the entire appositeness, at this very moment, of such versicles as the following, redounds far less to the credit of poesy than to the disgrace of legislation,—

How *can* you, my Lord, thus delight to torment all
The Peers of the realm about cheap'ning their corn,
When you know if one hasn't a very high rental,
'Tis hardly worth while to be very high-born.

That, being by nature so little prone to spleen

* *The Times*, Jan. 9. 1841.

or bitterness, I should yet have frequented so much the thorny paths of satire, has always, to myself and those best acquainted with me, been a matter of surprise. By supposing the imagination, however, to be, in such cases, the sole or chief prompter of the satire — which, in my own instance, I must say, it has generally been — an easy solution is found for the difficulty. The same readiness of fancy which, with but little help from reality, can deck out "the Cynthia of the minute" with all possible attractions, will likewise be able, when in the vein, to shower ridicule on a political adversary, without allowing a single feeling of real bitterness to mix itself with the operation. Even that sternest of all satirists, Dante, who, not content with the penal fire of the pen, kept an Inferno ever ready to receive the victims of his wrath, — even Dante, on becoming acquainted with some of the persons whom he had thus doomed, not only revoked their awful sentence, but even honoured them with warm praise*; and probably, on a little further acquaintance, would have admitted them into his Paradiso. When thus loosely and shallowly even the sublime satire of Dante could strike its roots in his own heart and memory, it is easy to conceive how light and passing may be the feeling of hostility with which a partizan in the field of satire plies his laughing warfare; and how often it may happen that even the pride of hitting his mark outlives but a short time the flight of the shaft.

I cannot dismiss from my hands these political trifles, —

> "This swarm of themes that settled on my pen,
> Which I, like summer-flies, shake off again," —

without venturing to add that I have now to connect with them one mournful recollection — one loss from among the circle of those I have longest looked up to with affection and admiration — which I little thought, when I began this series of prefatory sketches, I should have to mourn before their close. I need hardly add, that, in thus alluding to a great light of the social and political world recently gone out, I mean the late Lord Holland.

It may be recollected, perhaps, that, in mentioning some particulars respecting an early squib of mine, — the Parody on the Prince Regent's Letter, — I spoke of a dinner at which I was present on the very day of the first publication of that Parody, when it was the subject of much conversation at table, and none of the party, except our host, had any suspicion that I was the author of it. This host was Lord Holland; and as such a name could not but lend value to any anecdote connected with literature, I only forbore the pleasure of adding such an ornament to my page, from knowing that Lord Holland had long viewed with disapprobation and regret much of that conduct of the Whig party towards the Regent in 1812-13†, of the history of which this squib, and the welcome reception it met with, forms an humble episode.

Lord Holland himself, in addition to his higher intellectual accomplishments, possessed in no ordinary degree the talent of writing easy and playful *vers de société*; and, among the instances I could give of the lightness of his hand at such trifles, there is one no less characteristic of his good-nature than his wit, as it accompanied a copy of the octavo edition of Bayle‡, which, on hearing me rejoice one day that so agreeable an author had been at last made portable, he kindly ordered for me from Paris.

So late, indeed, as only a month or two before his lordship's death, he was employing himself, with all his usual cheerful eagerness, in translating some verses of Metastasio; and occasionally consulted both Mr. Rogers and myself as to different readings of some of the lines. In one of the letters which I received from him while thus occupied, I find the following postscript: —

> "'Tis thus I turn th' Italian's song,
> Nor deem I read his meaning wrong.
> But with rough English to combine
> The sweetness that's in every line,
> Asks for your Muse, and not for mine.
> *Sense only* will not quit the score;
> We must have that, and — little *More*.

He then adds, "I send you, too, a melancholy Epigram of mine, of which I have seen many, alas, witness the truth: —

* In his *Convito* he praises very warmly some persons whom he had before abused. — See Foscolo, *Discorso sul Testo di Dante*.

† This will be seen whenever those valuable papers come to be published, which Lord Holland left behind him, containing Memoirs of his own times and of those immediately preceding them.

‡ In sixteen volumes, published at Paris, by Desoer.

"A minister's answer is always so kind!
I starve, and he tells me he'll keep me in mind.
Half his promise, God knows, would my spirits restore:
Let him *keep* me—and, faith, I will ask for no more."

The only portion of the mass of trifles contained in this volume, that first found its way to the public eye through any more responsible channel than a newspaper, was the Letters of the Fudge Family in England,—a work which was sure, from its very nature, to encounter the double risk of being thought dull as a mere sequel, and light and unsafe as touching on follies connected with the name of Religion. Into the question of the comparative dulness of any of my productions, it is not for me, of course, to enter; but to the charge of treating religious subjects irreverently, I shall content myself with replying in the words of Pascal,—"Il a bien de la différence entre rire de la religion et rire de ceux qui la profanent par leurs opinions extravagantes."

PREFACE
TO
THE TENTH VOLUME.

The Story which occupies this volume was intended originally to be told in verse; and a great portion of it was at first written in that form. This fact, as well as the character, perhaps, of the whole work, which a good deal partakes of the cast and colouring of poetry, have been thought sufficient to entitle it to a place in this general collection of my poetical writings.

How little akin to romance or poesy were some of the circumstances under which this work was first projected by me, the reader may have seen from a preceding preface*; and the following rough outline, which I have found among my papers, dated Paris, July 25. 1820, will show both my first general conception, or fore-shadowing of the story, and likewise the extent to which I thought right, in afterwards working out this design, to reject or modify some of its details.

"Began my Egyptian Poem, and wrote about thirteen or fourteen lines of it. The story to be told in letters from a young Epicurean philosopher, who, in the second century of the Christian era, goes to Egypt for the purpose of discovering the elixir of immortality, which is supposed to be one of the secrets of the Egyptian priests. During a Festival on the Nile, he meets with a beautiful maiden, the daughter of one of the priests lately dead. She enters the catacombs, and disappears. He hovers around the spot, and at last finds the well and secret passages, &c. by which those who are initiated enter. He sees this maiden in one of those theatrical spectacles which formed a part of the subterranean Elysium of the Pyramids—finds opportunities of conversing with her—their intercourse in this mysterious region described. They are discovered; and he is thrown into those subterranean prisons, where they who violate the rules of Initiation are confined. He is liberated from thence by the young maiden, and taking flight together, they reach some beautiful region, where they linger, for a time, delighted, and she is near becoming a victim to his arts. But taking alarm, she flies; and seeks refuge with a Christian monk, in the Thebaid, to whom her mother, who was secretly a Christian, had consigned her in dying. The struggles of her love with her religion. A persecution of the Christians takes place, and she is seized (chiefly through the unintentional means of her lover), and suffers martyrdom. The scene of her martyrdom described, in a letter from the Solitary of the Thebaid, and the attempt made by the young philosopher to rescue her. He is carried off from thence to the cell of the Solitary. His letters from that retreat, after he has become a Christian, devoting his thoughts entirely to repentance and the recollection of the beloved saint who had gone before him.—If I don't make something out of all this, the deuce is in't."

According to this plan, the events of the story were to be told in Letters, or Epistolary Poems, addressed by the philosopher to a young Athenian friend; but, for greater variety, as well as convenience, I afterwards distributed the task of narration among the chief personages of the Tale. The great difficulty, however, of managing, in rhyme, the minor details of a story, so as to be clear without

* Preface to the Eighth Volume, p. xl. of this edition.

growing prosaic, and still more, the diffuse length to which I saw narration in verse would extend, deterred me from following this plan any further; and I then commenced the tale anew in its present shape.

Of the Poems written for my first experiment, a few specimens, the best I could select, were introduced into the prose story; but the remainder I had thrown aside, and nearly forgotten even their existence, when a circumstance somewhat characteristic, perhaps, of that trading spirit, which has now converted Parnassus itself into a market, again called my attention to them. The late Mr. Macrone, to whose general talents and enterprise in business all who knew him will bear ready testimony, had long been anxious that I should undertake for him some new Poem or Story, affording such subjects for illustration as might call into play the fanciful pencil of Mr. Turner. Other tasks and ties, however, had rendered my compliance with this wish impracticable; and he was about to give up all thoughts of attaining his object, when on learning from me accidentally that the Epicurean was still my own property, he proposed to purchase of me the use of the copyright for a single illustrated edition.

The terms proffered by him being most liberal, I readily acceded to the proposed arrangement; but, on further consideration, there arose some difficulty in the way of our treaty—the work itself being found insufficient to form a volume of such dimensions as would yield any hope of defraying the cost of the numerous illustrations then intended for it. Some modification, therefore, of our terms was thought necessary; and then first was the notion suggested to me of bringing forth from among my papers the original sketch, or opening of the story, and adding these fragments, as a sort of make-weight, in the mutual adjustment of our terms.

That I had myself regarded the first experiment as a failure, was sufficiently shown by my relinquishment of it. But, as the published work had then passed through several editions, and had been translated into most of the languages of Europe, it was thought that an insight into the anxious process by which such success had been attained, might, as an encouragement, at least, to the humble merit of painstaking, be deemed of some little use.

The following are the translations of this Tale which have reached me: viz. two in French, two in Italian (Milan, 1836,—Venice, 1835), one in German (Inspruc, 1828), and one in Dutch, by M. Herman van Loghem (Deventer, 1829).

THE

POETICAL WORKS

OF

THOMAS MOORE.

ODES OF ANACREON

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE.

WITH NOTES.

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

SIR,

IN allowing me to dedicate this Work to Your Royal Highness, you have conferred upon me an honour which I feel very sensibly: and I have only to regret, that the pages which you have thus distinguished are not more deserving of such illustrious patronage.

Believe me, SIR,
With every sentiment of respect,
Your Royal Highness's
Very grateful and devoted Servant,
THOMAS MOORE.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT may be necessary to mention, that, in arranging the Odes, the Translator has adopted the order of the Vatican MS. For those who wish to refer to the original, he has prefixed an Index, which marks the number of each Ode in Barnes and the other editions.

INDEX.

ODE		BARNES.
1.	ΑΝΑΚΡΕΩΝ ιδων με	63.
2.	Δοτε μοι λυρην Ὁμηρου	48.
3.	Αγε, ζωγραφων αριστε	49.
4.	Τον αργυρον τορευων	17.
5.	Καλλιτεχνα μοι τορευσον	18.
6.	Στεφος πλεκων ποθ' εὑρον	59.
7.	Λεγουσιν αἱ γυναικες	11.
8.	Ου μοι μελει τα Γυγου	15.
9.	Αφες με τους θεους σοι	31.
10.	Τι σοι θελεις ποιησω	12.
11.	Ερωτα κηρινον τις	10.
12.	Οἱ μεν καλην Κυθηρην	13.
13.	Θελω, θελω φιλησαι	14.
14.	Ει φυλλα παντα δενδρων	32.
15.	Ερασμιη πελεια	9.
16.	Αγε, ζωγραφων αριστε	28.
17.	Γραφε μοι Βαθυλλον οὑτω	29.
18.	Δοτε μοι, δοτε γυναικες	21.
19.	Παρα την σκιην, Βαθυλλε	22.
20.	Αἱ Μουσαι τον Ερωτα	30.
21.	Ἡ γη μελαινα πινει	19.
22.	Ἡ Ταντάλου ποτ' εστη	20.
23.	Θελω λεγειν Ατρειδας	1.
24.	Φυσις κερατα ταυροις	2.
25.	Συ μεν φιλη χελιδων	33.

ODE		BARNES.
26.	Συ μεν λεγεις τα Θηβης	16.
27.	Ει ισχιοις μεν ἱπποι	53.
28.	Ὁ ανηρ ὁ της Κυθηρης	45.
29.	Χαλεπον το μη φιλησαι	46.
30.	Εδοκουν αναρ τροχαζειν	44.
31.	Ὑακινθινω με ῥαβδω	7.
32.	Επι μυρσιναις τερειναις	4.
33.	Μεσονυκτιοις ποθ' ὡραις	3.
34.	Μακαριζομεν σε, τεττιξ	43.
35.	Ερως ποτ' εν ῥοδοισι	40.
36.	Ὁ πλουτος ειγε χρυσον	23.
37.	Δια νυκτος εγκαθευδων	8.
38.	Ἱλαροι πιωμεν οινον	41.
39.	Φιλω γεροντα τερπνον	47.
40.	Επειδη βροτος ετυχθην	24.
41.	Τι καλον εστι βαδιζειν	66.
42.	Ποθεω μεν Διονυσου	42.
43.	Στεφανους μεν κροταφοισι	6.
44.	Το ῥοδον το των ερωτων	5.
45.	Ὁταν πινω τον οινον	25.
46.	Ιδε, πως ἑαρος φανεντος	37.
47.	Εγω γερων μεν ειμι	38.
48.	Ὁταν ὁ Βακχος εισελθη	26.
49.	Του Διος ὁ παις Βακχος	27.
50.	Ὁτ' εγω πιω τον οινον	39.
51.	Μη με φυγης ορωσα	34.
52.	Τι με τους νομους διδασκεις	36.
53.	Ὁτ' εγω νεων ὁμιλον	54.
54.	Ὁ ταυρος οὑτος, ω παι	35.
55.	Στεφανηφορου μετ' Ηρος	51.
56.	Ὁ τον εν πονοις ατειρη	50.
57.	Αρα τις τορευσε ποντον	49.
58.	Ὁ δραπετης ὁ χρυσος	66.
59.	Τον μελανοχρωτα βοτρυν	52.
60.	Ανα βαρβιτον δονησω	64.
	* * * * *	
61.	Πολιοι μεν ἡμιν ηδη	56.
62.	Αγε δη, φερ' ἡμιν, ω παι	57.
63.	Τον Ερωτα γαρ τον ἀερον	58.
64.	Γουνουμαι σ' ελαφηβολε	60.
65.	Πωλε Θρηκιη, τι δη με	61.
66.	Θεαων ανασσα, Κυπρι	62.
67.	Ω παι παρθενιον βλεπων	67.
68.	Εγω δ' ουτ' αν Αμαλθειης	68.

For the order of the rest, see the Notes.

AN ODE

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

ΕΠΙ ῥυδινοις ταπησι,
Τηϊος ποτ' ὁ μελιστης
Ἱλαρος γελων εκειτο,
Μεθυων τε και λυριζων·
Αμφι αυτον οἱ δ' ερωτες
Ἁπαλοι συνεχορευσαν·
Ὁ βελη τα της Κυθηρης
Εποιει, ψυχης οϊστους·
Ὁ δε λευκα πορφυροισι
Κρινα συν ῥοδοισι πλεξας,
Εφιλει στεφων γερυντα·
Ἡ δε θεαων ανασσα,
ΣΟΦΙΗ ποτ' εξ Ολυμπου
Εσορως' Ανακρεοντα,
Εσορωσα τους ερωτας,
Ὑπομειδιασσας ειπε·
Σοφε, δ' ὡς Ανακρεοντα
Τον σοφωτατον ἁπαντων,
Καλεουσιν οἱ σοφισται,
Τι, γερων, τεον βιον μερ
Τοις ερωσι, τῳ Λυαιῳ,
Κ' ουκ εμοι κρατειν εδωκας;
Τι φιλημα της Κυθηρης,
Τι κυπελλα του Λυαιου,
Αιει γ' ετρυφησας αδων,
Ουκ εμους νομους διδασκων,
Ουκ εμον λαχων αωτον;
Ὁ δε Τηϊος μελιστης
Μητε δυσχεραινε, φησι,
Ὁτι, θεα, σου γ' ανευ μεν,
Ὁ σοφωτατος ἁπαντων
Παρα των σοφων καλουμαι·
Φιλεω, πιω, λυριζω,
Μετα των καλων γυναικων·
Αφελως δε τερπνα παιζω,
Ὡς λυρη γαρ, εμον ητορ
Αναπνει μονους ερωτας·
Ὡδε βιοτου γαληνην
Φιλεων μαλιστα παντων,
Ου σοφος μελωδος ειμι;
Τις σοφωτερος μεν εστι;

CORRECTIONS OF THE PRECEDING ODE,

SUGGESTED BY AN EMINENT GREEK SCHOLAR.

Ἐπὶ πορφυρέοις τάπησι	Επι ῥόδινοις ταπησι
Τηΐιός ποτ' ὠδοποιὸς	Τηϊος ποτ' ὁ μελιστης
ἱλαρὸς γελῶν ἔκειτο,	
μεθύων τε καὶ λυρίζων·	4

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1. πορφυρέοις vox trisyllabica. Anacr. Fragm. XXIX. 3. ed. Fischer. πορφυρέῃ σ' Ἀφροδίτη. Anacr. Fragm. XXXVI. 1. σφαίρῃ δεῦτέ μι πορφυρέῃ, ut legendum plane ex Athenæo.

Ἁλιπορφύροις τάπησι dixit Pseud-Anacreon, Od. VIII 2. Theocr. Id. XV. 125. πορφύρεοι δὲ τάπητες ἄνω, μαλακώτεροι ὕπνω.

περὶ δ' αὐτὸν ἀμφ' Ἔρωτες	Ἀμφι αυτον οἱ δ' Ερωτες
τρομεροῖς ποσὶν χόρευον.	Ἅπαλοι συνέχορευσαν
τὰ βέλεμν' ὁ μὲν Κυθήρης	
ἐποίει καλῆς, ὀϊστοὺς	Εποιει, ψυχης οϊστους
πυρόεντας, ἐκ κεραυνοῦ·	
ὁ δὲ λευκὰ καλλιφύλλοις	
κρίνα σὺν ῥόδοισι πλέξας,	
ἐφίλει στέφων γέροντα.	
κατὰ δ' εὐθὺς ἐξ Ὀλύμπου Σοφίη θέαινα βᾶσα, ἐσορῶσ' Ἀνακρέοντα, ἐσορῶσα τοὺς Ἔρωτας,	Ἡ δε θεαων ανασσα
ὑπομειδιῶσά φησι·	Ὑπομειδιασασᾶς ειπε
Σόφ', —ἐπεὶ βροτῶν σὲ τοῦτο καλέουσι φῦλα πάντα, καλέουσιν οἱ σοφισταί, —	Τον σοφωτατὸν ἁπαντων
τί, γέρων, μάτην ὀδεύεις βιότου τρίβον τεοῦ μὲν μετὰ τῶν καλῶν Ἐρώτων,	
μετὰ τοῦ καλοῦ Λυαίου,	Τοῖς Ερωσι, τῳ Λυαιῳ
ἐμὲ δ' ὧδε λαξ ἀτίζεις;	Κ' ουκ εμοι κρατειν εδωκας
τί φίλημα τῆς Κυθήρης,	
τί κύπελλα τοῦ Λυαίου,	
ἐσαεὶ τρυφῶν ἀείδεις,	Αἰεῖ γ' ετρυφησας ᾳδων
ἐμὰ δέσμι' οὐ διδάσκων,	Οὔκ εμους νομους διδασκων
ἐμὸν οὐ λαχὼν ἄωτον;	Οὐκ εμον λαχων αωτον
ὁ δὲ Τήϊος μελῳδὸς,	
Σὺ παρὲκ νόον γε μή μοι χαλέπαινε, φήσ', ἄνευθε	Μῆτε δυσχεραινε, φησι
ὅτι σεῦ σοφὸς καλοῦμαι παρὰ τῶν σοφῶν ἁπάντων.	Ὅτι, θεᾶ, σου γ' ανευ μεν Ὁ σοφωτατὸς ἁπαντων
φιλέω, πίω, λυρίζω,	
μετὰ τῶν καλῶν γυναικῶν,	
ἀφελῶς δὲ τερπνὰ παίζω·	
κιθάρη γὰρ, ὡς κέαρ μεῦ,	Ὡς λυρη γαρ, εμον ητορ
ἀναπνεῖ μόνους Ἔρωτας.	

βιότου δὲ τὴν γαλήνην	Ὧδε βίοτου γαληνην
φιλέων μάλιστα πάντων,	
σοφὸς οὐ μελῳδός εἰμι;	Ου σοφος μελῳδος ειμι
τί σοφώτερον γένοιτ' ἄν;	
ἐμέθεν σοφώτερος τίς;	Τις σοφωτερος μεν εστι

REMARKS ON ANACREON.

THERE is but little known with certainty of the life of Anacreon. Chamæleon Heracleotes [1], who wrote upon the subject, has been lost in the general wreck of ancient literature. The editors of the poet have collected the few trifling anecdotes which are scattered through the extant authors of antiquity, and, supplying the deficiency of materials by fictions of their own imagination, have arranged, what they call, a life of Anacreon. These specious fabrications are intended to indulge that interest which we naturally feel in the biography of illustrious men; but it is rather a dangerous kind of illusion, as it confounds the limits of history and romance [2], and is too often supported by unfaithful citation.[3]

Our poet was born in the city of Téos [4], in the delicious region of Ionia, and the time of his birth appears to have been in the sixth century before Christ.[5] He flourished at that remarkable period, when, under the polished tyrants Hipparchus and Polycrates, Athens and Samos were become the rival asylums of genius. There is nothing certain known about his family, and those who pretend to discover in Plato that he was a descendant of the monarch Codrus, show much more of zeal than of either accuracy or judgment.[6]

5 Tmesis pro ἀμφεχόρευον. Theocr. Id. VII. 142. ποτ̃ωντο ξουθαὶ περὶ πάδακας ἀμφὶ μέλισσαι, h. e. ἀμφεποτ̃ωντο.

6. Pseud-Anacr. Od. LII. 12. τρομερεοῖς ποσὶν χορεύει.

7, 10. ὁ μὲν, hic — ὁ δὲ, ille. Bion. Id. I. 82. χὠ μὲν ὀϊστὸς, | ὃς δ' ἐπὶ τόξον ἔβαιν', κ. τ. λ. itidem de Amoribus.

8, 9. ἐποίει — ἐκ κεραυνοῦ. Pseud-Anacr. Od. XXVIII, 18. τὸ δὲ βλέμμα νῦν ἀληθῶς | ἀπὸ τοῦ πυρὸς ποίησον.

10, 11. καλλιφύλλοις — ῥόδοισι. Pseud-Anacr. Od. V. 3. τὸ ῥόδον τὸ καλλίφυλλον.

13. Tmesis pro καταβᾶσα. Pseud-Anacr. Od. III. 15. ἀνὰ δ' ὐθὺ λύχνον ἄψας, h. e. ἀνάψας.

18. Supple ὄνομα, quo τοῦτο referatur. Eurip. Phœn. 12. τοῦτο γὰρ πατὴρ | ἔθετο. h. e. τοῦτο ὄνομα. βροτῶν φῦλα πάντα adumbratum ex Pseud-Anacr. Od. III. 4. μερόπων δὲ φῦλα πάντα.

21. Pseud-Anacr. Od. XXIV. 2. βιότου τρίβον ὀδεύειν.

25. Æsch. Eumen. 538. μηδὲ νιν, | κέρδος ἰδὼν, ἀθέῳ πολλὰ λαξ ἀτί- | σῃς.

32. παρὲκ νόον γε μή μοι χαλέπαινε, ne præter rationem in me sævi. Il. T. 133. Ἥρη, μὴ χαλέπαινε παρὲκ νόον. Similem positionem particularum μή μοι exhibet Pseud-Anacr. Od. XXVIII. 13.

1 He is quoted by Athenæus εν τῳ περι του Αναπεσοντος.

2 The History of Anacreon, by Gaçon (le Poëte sans fard, as he styles himself), is professedly a romance; nor does Mademoiselle Scudéri, from whom he borrowed the idea, pretend to historical veracity in her account of Anacreon and Sappho. These, then, are allowable. But how can Barnes be forgiven, who, with all the confidence of a biographer, traces every wandering of the poet, and settles him at last, in his old age, at a country villa near Téos?

3 The learned Bayle has detected some infidelities of quotation in Le Fevre. (*Dictionnaire Historique, &c.*) Madame Dacier is not more accurate than her father: they have almost made Anacreon prime minister to the monarch of Samos.

4 The Asiatics were as remarkable for genius as for luxury. "Ingenia Asiatica inclyta per gentes fecêre Poetæ, Anacreon, inde Mimnermus et Antimachus," &c. — *Solinus.*

5 I have not attempted to define the particular Olympiad, but have adopted the idea of Bayle, who says, "Je n'ai point marqué d'Olympiade; car pour un homme qui a vécu 85 ans, il me semble que l'on ne doit point s'enfermer dans des bornes si étroites."

6 This mistake is founded on a false interpretation of a very obvious passage in Plato's Dialogue on Temperance; it originated with Madame Dacier, and has been received implicitly by many. Gail, a late editor of Anacreon, seems to claim to himself the merit of detecting this error; but Bayle had observed it before him.

The disposition and talents of Anacreon recommended him to the monarch of Samos, and he was formed to be the friend of such a prince as Polycrates. Susceptible only to the pleasures, he felt not the corruptions of the court; and, while Pythagoras fled from the tyrant, Anacreon was celebrating his praises on the lyre. We are told too by Maximus Tyrius, that, by the influence of his amatory songs, he softened the mind of Polycrates into a spirit of benevolence towards his subjects.[1]

The amours of the poet, and the rivalship of the tyrant[2], I shall pass over in silence; and there are few, I presume, who will regret the omission of most of those anecdotes, which the industry of some editors has not only promulged, but discussed. Whatever is repugnant to modesty and virtue is considered in ethical science, by a supposition very favourable to humanity, as impossible; and this amiable persuasion should be much more strongly entertained, where the transgression wars with nature as well as virtue. But why are we not allowed to indulge in the presumption? Why are we officiously reminded that there have been really such instances of depravity?

Hipparchus, who now maintained at Athens the power which his father Pisistratus had usurped, was one of those princes who may be said to have polished the fetters of their subjects. He was the first, according to Plato, who edited the poems of Homer, and commanded them to be sung by the rhapsodists at the celebration of the Panathenæa. From his court, which was a sort of galaxy of genius, Anacreon could not long be absent. Hipparchus sent a barge for him; the poet readily embraced the invitation, and the Muses and the Loves were wafted with him to Athens.[3]

The manner of Anacreon's death was singular. We are told that in the eighty-fifth year of his age he was choked by a grape-stone[4]; and, however we may smile at their enthusiastic partiality, who see in this easy and characteristic death a peculiar indulgence of Heaven, we cannot help admiring that his fate should have been so emblematic of his disposition. Cælius Calcagninus alludes to this catastrophe in the following epitaph on our poet[5]:—

Those lips, then, hallow'd sage, which pour'd clong
A music sweet as any cygnet's song,
The grape hath clos'd for ever!
Here let the ivy kiss the poet's tomb,
Here let the rose he lov'd with laurels bloom,
In bands that ne'er shall sever.

But far be thou, oh! far, unholy vine,
By whom the favourite minstrel of the Nine
Lost his sweet vital breath;
Thy God himself now blushes to confess,
Once hallow'd vine! he feels he loves thee less,
Since poor Anacreon's death.

It has been supposed by some writers that Anacreon and Sappho were contemporaries; and the very thought of an intercourse between persons so congenial, both in warmth of passion and delicacy of genius, gives such play to the imagination, that the mind loves to indulge in it. But the vision dissolves before historical truth; and Chamæleon and Hermesianax, who are the source of the supposition, are considered as having merely indulged in a poetical anachronism.[6]

To infer the moral dispositions of a poet from the tone of sentiment which pervades his works, is sometimes a very fallacious analogy; but the soul of Anacreon speaks so unequivocally through his odes, that we may safely consult them as the faithful mirrors of his heart.[7] We find him there the elegant voluptuary, diffusing the seductive charm of sentiment over passions and propensities

[1] Ανακρεων Σαμιοις Πολυκρατην ἡμερωσε. Maxim. Tyr. § 21. Maximus Tyrius mentions this among other instances of the influence of poetry. If Gail had read Maximus Tyrius, how could he ridicule this idea in Moutonnet, as unauthenticated?

[2] In the romance of Clelia, the anecdote to which I allude is told of a young girl, with whom Anacreon fell in love while she personated the god Apollo in a mask. But here Mademoiselle Scuderi consulted nature more than truth.

[3] There is a very interesting French poem founded upon this anecdote, imputed to Desyvetaux, and called "Anacréon Citoyen."

[4] Fabricius appears not to trust very implicitly in this story. "Uvæ passæ acino tandem suffocatus, si credimus Suidæ in οινοποτης; alii enim hoc mortis genere periise tradunt Sophoclem." — *Fabricii Bibliothec. Græc.* lib. ii. cap. 15. It must be confessed that Lucian, who tells us that Sophocles was choked by a grape-stone, in the very same treatise mentions the longevity of Anacreon, and yet is silent on the manner of his death. Could he have been ignorant of such a remarkable coincidence, or, knowing, could he have neglected to remark it? See Regnier's introduction to his Anacreon.

[5] At te, sancte senex, acinus sub Tartara misit;
Cygneæ clausit qui tibi vocis iter.
Vos, hederæ, tumulum, tumulum vos cingite, lauri,
Hoc rosa perpetuo vernet odora loco;
At vitis procul hinc, procul hinc odiosa facessat,
Quæ causam diræ protulit, uva, necis,
Creditur ipse minus vitem jam Bacchus amare,
In vatem tantum quæ fuit ausa nefas.

The author of this epitaph, Cælius Calcagninus, has translated or imitated the epigrams εις την Μυρωνος βουν, which are given under the name of Anacreon.

[6] Barnes is convinced (but very gratuitously) of the synchronism of Anacreon and Sappho. In citing his authorities, he has strangely neglected the line quoted by Fulvius Ursinus, as from Anacreon, among the testimonies to Sappho:—

Ειμι λαβων εισαρας Σαπφω παρθενον ἁδυφωνον.

Fabricius thinks that they might have been contemporary, but considers their amour as a tale of imagination. Vossius rejects the idea entirely; as do also Olaus Borrichius and others.

[7] An Italian poet, in some verses on Belleau's translation

at which rigid morality must frown. His heart, devoted to indolence, seems to have thought that there is wealth enough in happiness, but seldom happiness in mere wealth. The cheerfulness, indeed, with which he brightens his old age is interesting and endearing: like his own rose, he is fragrant even in decay. But the most peculiar feature of his mind is that love of simplicity, which he attributes to himself so feelingly, and which breathes characteristically throughout all that he has sung. In truth, if we omit those few vices in our estimate which religion, at that time, not only connived at, but consecrated, we shall be inclined to say that the disposition of our poet was amiable; that his morality was relaxed, but not abandoned; and that Virtue, with her zone loosened, may be an apt emblem of the character of Anacreon.[1]

Of his person and physiognomy time has preserved such uncertain memorials, that it were better, perhaps, to leave the pencil to fancy; and few can read the Odes of Anacreon without imagining to themselves the form of the animated old bard, crowned with roses, and singing cheerfully to his lyre. But the head of Anacreon, prefixed to this work[2], has been considered so authentic, that we scarcely could be justified in the omission of it; and some have even thought that it is by no means deficient in that benevolent suavity of expression which should characterise the countenance of such a poet.

After the very enthusiastic eulogiums bestowed both by ancients and moderns upon the poems of Anacreon[3], we need not be diffident in expressing our raptures at their beauty, nor hesitate to pronounce them the most polished remains of antiquity.[4] They are, indeed, all beauty, all enchantment.[5] He steals us so insensibly along with him, that we sympathise even in his excesses. In his amatory odes there is a delicacy of compliment not to be found in any other ancient poet. Love at that period was rather an unrefined emotion: and the intercourse of the sexes was animated more by passion than by sentiment. They knew

of Anacreon, pretends to imagine that our bard did not feel as he wrote:—

Lyæum, Venerem, Cupidinemque
Senex lusit Anacreon poeta.
Sed quo tempore nec capaciores
Rogabat cyathos, nec inquietis
Urebatur amoribus, sed ipsis
Tantum versibus et jocis amabat,
Nullum præ se habitum gerens amantis.

To Love and Bacchus ever young
While sage Anacreon touch'd the lyre,
He neither felt the loves he sung,
Nor fill'd his bowl to Bacchus higher.
Those flowery days had faded long,
When youth could act the lover's part;
And passion trembled in his song,
But never, never, reach'd his heart.

[1] Anacreon's character has been variously coloured. Barnes lingers on it with enthusiastic admiration; but he is always extravagant, if not sometimes also a little profane. Baillet runs too much into the opposite extreme, exaggerating also the testimonies which he has consulted; and we cannot surely agree with him when he cites such a compiler as Athenæus, as "un des plus savans critiques de l'antiquité." — *Jugement des Sçavans*, M. CV.

Barnes could hardly have read the passage to which he refers, when he accuses Le Fevre of having censured our poet's character in a note on Longinus; the note in question being manifest irony, in allusion to some censure passed upon Le Fevre for his Anacreon. It is clear, indeed, that praise rather than censure is intimated See Johannes Vulpius (de Utilitate Poëtices), who vindicates our poet's reputation.

[2] It is taken from the Bibliotheca of Fulvius Ursinus. Bellori has copied the same head into his Imagines. Johannes Faber, in his description of the coin of Ursinus, mentions another head on a very beautiful cornelian, which he supposes was worn in a ring by some admirer of the poet. In the Iconographia of Canini there is a youthful head of Anacreon from a Grecian medal, with the letters TEIOΣ around it; on the reverse there is a Neptune, holding a spear in his right hand, and a dolphin, with the word TIANΩN inscribed, in the left; "volendoci denotare (says Canini) che quelle cittadini la coniassero in honore del suo compatriota poeta." There is also among the coins of De Wilde one, which though it bears no effigy, was probably struck to the memory of Anacreon. It has the word THIΩN, encircled with an ivy crown. "At quidni respicit hæc corona Anacreontem, nobilem lyricum?" — *De Wilde.*

[3] Besides those which are extant, he wrote hymns, elegies, epigrams, &c. Some of the epigrams still exist. Horace, in addition to the mention of him (lib. iv. od. 9.), alludes also to a poem of his upon the rivalry of Circe and Penelope in the affections of Ulysses, lib. i. od. 17.; and the scholiast upon Nicander cites a fragment from a poem upon Sleep by Anacreon, and attributes to him likewise a medicinal treatise. Fulgentius mentions a work of his upon the war between Jupiter and the Titans, and the origin of the consecration of the eagle.

[4] See Horace, Maximus Tyrius, &c. "His style (says Scaliger) is sweeter than the juice of the Indian reed."—*Poët.* lib. i. cap. 44. "From the softness of his verses (says Olaus Borrichius) the ancients bestowed on him the epithets sweet, delicate, graceful, &c."—*Dissertationes Academicæ*, de Poetis, diss. 2. Scaliger again praises him thus in a pun; speaking of the μελος, or ode, "Anacreon autem non solum dedit hæc μελη sed etiam in ipsis mella." See the passage of Rapin, quoted by all the editors. I cannot omit citing also the following very spirited apostrophe of the author of the Commentary prefixed to the Parma edition: "O vos sublimes animæ, vos Apollinis alumni, qui post unum Alcmanem in totâ Hellade lyricam poesim exsuscitastis, coluistis, amplificastis, quæso vos an ullus unquam fuerit vates qui Teio cantori vel naturæ candore vel metri suavitate palmam præripuerit." See likewise Vincenzo Gravini della Rag. Poetic. libro primo, p. 97. Among the Ritratti of Marino, there is one of Anacreon beginning "Cingetemi la fronte," &c. &c.

[5] "We may perceive," says Vossius, "that the iteration of his words conduces very much to the sweetness of his style." Henry Stephen remarks the same beauty in a note on the forty-fourth ode. This figure of iteration is his most appropriate grace: — but the modern writers of Juvenilia and Basia have adopted it to an excess which destroys the effect.

not those little tendernesses which form the spiritual part of affection; their expression of feeling was therefore rude and unvaried, and the poetry of love deprived it of its most captivating graces. Anacreon, however, attained some ideas of this purer gallantry; and the same delicacy of mind which led him to this refinement, prevented him also from yielding to the freedom of language, which has sullied the pages of all the other poets. His descriptions are warm; but the warmth is in the ideas, not the words. He is sportive without being wanton, and ardent without being licentious. His poetic invention is always most brilliantly displayed in those allegorical fictions which so many have endeavoured to imitate, though all have confessed them to be inimitable. Simplicity is the distinguishing feature of these odes, and they interest by their innocence, as much as they fascinate by their beauty. They may be said, indeed, to be the very infants of the Muses, and to lisp in numbers.

I shall not be accused of enthusiastic partiality by those who have read and felt the original; but, to others, I am conscious, this should not be the language of a translator, whose faint reflection of such beauties can but ill justify his admiration of them.

In the age of Anacreon music and poetry were inseparable. These kindred talents were for a long time associated, and the poet always sung his own compositions to the lyre. It is probable that they were not set to any regular air, but rather a kind of musical recitation, which was varied according to the fancy and feelings of the moment.[1] The poems of Anacreon were sung at banquets as late as the time of Aulus Gellius, who tells us that he heard one of the odes performed at a birth-day entertainment.[2]

The singular beauty of our poet's style, and the apparent facility, perhaps, of his metre have attracted, as I have already remarked, a crowd of imitators. Some of these have succeeded with wonderful felicity, as may be discerned in the few odes which are attributed to writers of a later period. But none of his emulators have been half so dangerous to his fame as those Greek ecclesiastics of the early ages, who, being conscious of their own inferiority to their great prototypes, determined on removing all possibility of comparison, and, under a semblance of moral zeal, deprived the world of some of the most exquisite treasures of ancient times.[3] The works of Sappho and Alcæus were among those flowers of Grecian literature which thus fell beneath the rude hand of ecclesiastical presumption. It is true they pretended that this sacrifice of genius was hallowed by the interests of religion; but I have already assigned the most probable motive[4]; and if Gregorius Nazianzenus had not written Anacreontics, we might now perhaps have the works of the Teian unmutilated, and be empowered to say exultingly with Horace,

> Nec si quid olim lusit Anacreon
> Delevit ætas.

The zeal by which these bishops professed to be actuated, gave birth more innocently, indeed, to an absurd species of parody, as repugnant to piety as it is to taste, where the poet of voluptuousness was made a preacher of the gospel, and his muse, like the Venus in armour at Lacedæmon, was arrayed in all the severities of priestly instruction. Such was the "Anacreon Recantatus," by Carolus de Aquino, a Jesuit, published 1701, which consisted of a series of palinodes to the several songs of our poet. Such, too, was the Christian Anacreon of Patriganus, another Jesuit[5], who preposterously transferred to a most sacred subject all that the Grecian poet had dedicated to festivity and love.

His metre has frequently been adopted by the modern Latin poets; and Scaliger, Taubman, Barthius[6], and others, have shown that it is by no

[1] In the Paris edition there are four of the original odes set to music, by Le Sueur, Gossec, Mehul, and Cherubini. "On chante du Latin, et de l'Italien," says Gail, "quelquefois même sans les entendre; qui empêche que nous ne chantions des odes Grecques?" The chromatic learning of these composers is very unlike what we are told of the simple melody of the ancients; and they have all, as it appears to me, mistaken the accentuation of the words.

[2] The Parma commentator is rather careless in referring to this passage of Aulus Gellius (lib. xix. cap. 9.). The ode was not sung by the rhetorician Julianus, as he says, but by the minstrels of both sexes, who were introduced at the entertainment.

[3] See what Colomesius, in his "Literary Treasures," has quoted from Alcyonius de Exilio; it may be found in Baxter. Colomesius, after citing the passage, adds, "Hæc auro contra cara non potui non apponere."

[4] We may perceive by the beginning of the first hymn of Bishop Synesius, that he made Anacreon and Sappho his models of composition.

> Αγε μοι, λιγεια φορμιγξ,
> Μετα Τηϊαν ασοιδαν,
> Μετα Λεσβιαν τε μολπαν.

Margunius and Damascenus were likewise authors of pious Anacreontics.

[5] This, perhaps, is the "Jesuita quidam Græculus" alluded to by Barnes, who has himself composed an Ανακρεων Χριστιανος, as absurd as the rest, but somewhat more skilfully executed.

[6] I have seen somewhere an account of the MSS. of Barthius, written just after his death, which mentions many more Anacreontics of his than I believe have ever been published.

means uncongenial with that language.[1] The Anacreontics of Scaliger, however, scarcely deserve the name; as they glitter all over with conceits, and, though often elegant, are always laboured. The beautiful fictions of Angerianus[2] preserve more happily than any others the delicate turn of those allegorical fables, which, passing so frequently through the mediums of version and imitation, have generally lost their finest rays in the transmission. Many of the Italian poets have indulged their fancies upon the subjects, and in the manner of Anacreon. Bernardo Tasso first introduced the metre, which was afterwards polished and enriched by Chabriera and others.[3]

To judge by the references of Degen, the German language abounds in Anacreontic imitations; and Hagedorn[4] is one among many who have assumed him as a model. La Farre, Chaulieu, and the other light poets of France, have also professed to cultivate the muse of Téos; but they have attained all her negligence with little of the simple grace that embellishes it. In the delicate bard of Schiras[5] we find the kindred spirit of Anacreon: some of his gazelles, or songs, possess all the character of our poet.

We come now to a retrospect of the editions of Anacreon. To Henry Stephen we are indebted for having first recovered his remains from the obscurity in which, so singularly, they had for many ages reposed. He found the seventh ode, as we are told, on the cover of an old book, and communicated it to Victorius, who mentions the circumstance in his "Various Readings." Stephen was then very young; and this discovery was considered by some critics of that day as a literary imposition.[6] In 1554, however, he gave Anacreon to the world[7], accompanied with annotations and a Latin version of the greater part of the odes. The learned still hesitated to receive them as the relics of the Teian bard, and suspected them to be the fabrication of some monks of the sixteenth century. This was an idea from which the classic muse recoiled; and the Vatican manuscript, consulted by Scaliger and Salmasius, confirmed the antiquity of most of the poems. A very inaccurate copy of this MS. was taken by Isaac Vossius, and this is the authority which Barnes has followed in his collation. Accordingly he misrepresents almost as often as he quotes; and the subsequent editors, relying upon his authority, have spoken of the manuscript with not less confidence than ignorance. The literary world, however, has at length been gratified with this curious memorial of the poet, by the industry of the Abbé Spaletti, who published at Rome, in 1781, a facsimile of those pages of the Vatican manuscript which contained the odes of Anacreon.[8]

A catalogue has been given by Gail of all the different editions and translations of Anacreon. Finding their number to be much greater than I could possibly have had an opportunity of consulting, I shall here content myself with enumerating only those editions and versions which it has been in my power to collect; and which, though very few, are, I believe, the most important.

The edition by Henry Stephen, 1554, at Paris—the Latin version is attributed by Colomesius to John Dorat.[9]

The old French tranlations, by Ronsard and Belleau—the former published in 1555, the latter in 1556. It appears from a note of Muretus upon one of the sonnets of Ronsard, that Henry Stephen

[1] Thus too Albertus, a Danish poet:—

Fidii tui minister
Gaudebo semper esse,
Gaudebo semper illi
Litare thure mulso;
Gaudebo semper illum
Laudare pumilillis
Anacreonticillis.

See the *Danish Poets* collected by Rostgaard.

These pretty littlenesses defy translation. A beautiful Anacreontic by Hugo Grotius, may be found Lib. i. Farraginis.

[2] To Angerianus Prior is indebted for some of his happiest mythological subjects.

[3] See Crescimbeni, Historia della Volg. Poes.

[4] "L'aimable Hagedorn vaut quelquefois Anacréon."—*Dorat, Idée de la Poësie Allemande.*

[5] See Toderini on the learning of the Turks, as translated by de Cournard. Prince Cantemir has made the Russians acquainted with Anacreon. See his Life, prefixed to a translation of his Satires, by the Abbé de Guasco.

[6] Robortellus, in his work "De Ratione corrigendi," pronounces these verses to be the triflings of some insipid Græcist.

[7] Ronsard commemorates this event:—

Je vay boire à Henrie Etienne
Qui des enfers nous a rendu,
Du vieil Anacréon perdu,
La douce lyre Teïenne. Ode xv. book 5.

I fill the bowl to Stephen's name,
Who rescued from the gloom of night
The Teian bard of festive fame,
And brought his living lyre to light.

[8] This manuscript, which Spaletti thinks as old as the tenth century, was brought from the Palatine into the Vatican library; it is a kind of anthology of Greek epigrams, and in the 676th page of it are found the Ἡμιμβια Συμποσιακα of Anacreon.

[9] "Le même (M. Vossius) m'a dit qu'il avoit possédé un Anacréon, où Scaliger avoit marqué de sa main, qu'Henri Etienne n'étoit pas l'auteur de la version Latine des odes de ce poëte, mais Jean Dorat."—*Paulus Colomesius, Particularités.*

Colomesius, however, seems to have relied too implicitly on Vossius;—almost all these Particularités begin with "M. Vossius m'a dit."

communicated to this poet his manuscript of Anacreon, before he promulgated it to the world.[1]

The edition by Le Fevre, 1660.

The edition by Madame Dacier, 1681, with a prose translation.[2]

The edition by Longepierre, 1684, with a translation in verse.

The edition by Baxter; London, 1695.

A French translation by la Fosse, 1704.

"L'Histoire des Odes d'Anacreon," by Gaçon; Rotterdam, 1712.

A translation in English verse, by several hands, 1713, in which the odes by Cowley are inserted.

The edition by Barnes; London, 1721.

The edition by Dr. Trapp, 1733, with a Latin version in elegiac metre.

A translation in English verse, by John Addison, 1735.

A collection of Italian translations of Anacreon, published at Venice, 1736, consisting of those by Corsini, Regnier [3], Salvini, Marchetti, and one by several anonymous authors.[4]

A translation in English verse, by Fawkes and Doctor Broome, 1760.[5]

Another, anonymous, 1768.

The edition, by Spaletti, at Rome, 1781; with the fac-simile of the Vatican MS.

The edition by Degen, 1786, who published also a German translation of Anacreon, esteemed the best.

A translation in English verse, by Urquhart, 1787.

The edition by Gail, at Paris, 1799, with a prose translation.

ODES OF ANACREON.[6]

ODE I.

I saw the smiling bard of pleasure,
The minstrel of the Teian measure;
'T was in a vision of the night,
He beam'd upon my wondering sight.
I heard his voice, and warmly prest
The dear enthusiast to my breast.
His tresses wore a silvery dye,
But beauty sparkled in his eye;
Sparkled in his eyes of fire,
Through the mist of soft desire.[7]
His lip exhal'd, whene'er he sigh'd,
The fragrance of the racy tide;
And, as with weak and reeling feet
He came my cordial kiss to meet,
An infant, of the Cyprian band,
Guided him on with tender hand.
Quick from his glowing brows he drew
His braid, of many a wanton hue;
I took the wreath, whose inmost twine
Breath'd of him and blush'd with wine.[8]

[1] "La fiction de ce sonnet, comme l'auteur même m'a dit, est prise d'une ode d'Anacréon, encore non imprimée, qu'il a depuis traduit, Συ μεν φιλη χελιδων."

[2] The author of Nouvelles de la Répub. des Lett. bestows on this translation much more praise than its merits appear to me to justify.

[3] The notes of Regnier are not inserted in this edition; but they must be interesting, as they were for the most part communicated by the ingenious Menage, who, we may perceive, from a passage in the Menagiana, bestowed some research on the subject. "C'est aussi lui (M. Bigot) qui s'est donné la peine de conférer des manuscrits en Italie dans le tems que je travaillois sur Anacréon."—*Menagiana*, seconde partie.

[4] I find in Haym's Notizia de' Libri rari, Venice, 1676, an Italian translation by Cappone, mentioned.

[5] This is the most complete of the English translations.

[6] This ode is the first of the series in the Vatican manuscript, which attributes it to no other poet than Anacreon. They who assert that the manuscript imputes it to Basilius, have been misled by the words Του αυτου βασιλικας in the margin, which are merely intended as a title to the following ode. Whether it be the production of Anacreon or not, it has all the features of ancient simplicity, and is a beautiful imitation of the poet's happiest manner.

[7] *Sparkled in his eyes of fire,*
Through the mist of soft desire.] "How could he know at the first look (says Baxter) that the poet was φιλευνος?" There are surely many tell-tales of this propensity; and the following are the indices, which the physiognomist gives, describing a disposition perhaps not unlike that of Anacreon: Οφθαλμοι πλυζομενοι, κυμαινοντες εν αὐτοις, εις αφροδισια και ευπαθειαν επτοηνται· ουτε δε αδικοι, ουτε κακουργοι, ουτε φυσεως φαυλης, ουτε αμουσοι. — *Adamantius.* "The eyes that are humid and fluctuating show a propensity to pleasure and love; they bespeak too a mind of integrity and beneficence, a generosity of disposition, and a genius for poetry."

Baptista Porta tells us some strange opinions of the ancient physiognomists on this subject, their reasons for which were curious, and perhaps not altogether fanciful. Vide Physiognom. Johan. Baptist. Portæ.

[8] *I took the wreath, whose inmost twine*
Breath'd of him, &c.] Philostratus has the same thought in one of his Epωτικα, where he speaks of the garland which he had sent to his mistress. Ει δε βουλει τι φιλω χαριζεσθαι, τα λειψανα αντιπεμψον, μηκετι στεφανα ῥοδων μονον αλλα και σον. "If thou art inclined to gratify thy lover, send him back the remains of the garland, no longer breathing of roses only, but of thee!" Which pretty conceit is borrowed (as the author of the Observer remarks) in a well-known little song of Ben Jonson's:—

"But thou thereon didst only breathe
And sent it back to me;
Since when it looks and smells, I swear,
Not of itself, but thee!"

I hung it o'er my thoughtless brow
And ah! I feel its magic now:[1]
I feel that even his garland's touch
Can make the bosom love too much.

ODE II.

GIVE me the harp of epic song,
Which Homer's finger thrill'd along;
But tear away the sanguine string,
For war is not the theme I sing.
Proclaim the laws of festal rite,[2]
I'm monarch of the board to-night;
And all around shall brim as high,
And quaff the tide as deep as I.
And when the cluster's mellowing dews
Their warm enchanting balm infuse,
Our feet shall catch th' elastic bound,
And reel us through the dance's round.
Great Bacchus! we shall sing to thee,
In wild but sweet ebriety;
Flashing around such sparks of thought,
As Bacchus could alone have taught.

Then, give the harp of epic song,
Which Homer's finger thrill'd along;
But tear away the sanguine string,
For war is not the theme I sing.

ODE III.[3]

LISTEN to the Muse's lyre,
Master of the pencil's fire!
Sketch'd in painting's bold display,
Many a city first portray;
Many a city, revelling free,
Full of loose festivity.
Picture then a rosy train,
Bacchants straying o'er the plain;
Piping, as they roam along,
Roundelay or shepherd-song.
Paint me next, if painting may
Such a theme as this portray,
All the earthly heaven of love
These delighted mortals prove.

ODE IV.[4]

VULCAN! hear your glorious task;
I do not from your labours ask
In gorgeous panoply to shine,
For war was ne'er a sport of mine.
No — let me have a silver bowl,
Where I may cradle all my soul;
But mind that, o'er its simple frame
No mimic constellations flame;
Nor grave upon the swelling side,
Orion, scowling o'er the tide.
I care not for the glitt'ring wain,
Nor yet the weeping sister train.
But let the vine luxuriant roll
Its blushing tendrils round the bowl,
While many a rose-lipp'd bacchant maid[5]
Is culling clusters in their shade.
Let sylvan gods, in antic shapes,
Wildly press the gushing grapes,
And flights of Loves, in wanton play,
Wing through the air their winding way;
While Venus from her harbour green,
Looks laughing at the joyous scene,
And young Lyæus by her side
Sits, worthy of so bright a bride.

[1] *And ah! I feel its magic now:*] This idea, as Longepierre remarks, occurs in an epigram of the seventh book of the Anthologia.

Εξοτε μοι πινοντι συνεστακυια Χαριτλω
Λαθρη τους ιδιους αμφιβαλε στεφανους,
Πυρ ολον δαπτει με.

While I unconscious quaff'd my wine,
'Twas then thy fingers slily stole
Upon my brow that wreath of thine,
Which since has madden'd all my soul.

[2] *Proclaim the laws of festal rite.*] The ancients prescribed certain laws of drinking at their festivals, for an account of which see the commentators. Anacreon here acts the symposiarch, or master of the festival. I have translated according to those who consider κυτελλα θεσμων as an inversion of θεσμους κυτελλων.

[3] La Fosse has thought proper to lengthen this poem by considerable interpolations of his own, which he thinks are indispensably necessary to the completion of the description.

[4] This ode, Aulus Gellius tells us, was performed at an entertainment where he was present.

[5] *While many a rose-lipp'd bacchant maid, &c.*] I have availed myself here of the additional lines given in the Vatican manuscript, which have not been accurately inserted in any of the ordinary editions:—

Ποιησον αμπελους μοι
Και βοτρυας κατ' αυτων
Και μαιναδας τρυγωσας,
Ποιει δε ληνον οινω,
Ληνοβατας πατουντας,
Τους σ' αυγους γελωντας,
Και χρυσους τους ερωτας,
Και Κυθερην γελωσαν,
'Ομου καλω Λυαιω,
Ερωτα κ' 'Αφροδιτην.

ODE V.

SCULPTOR, wouldst thou glad my soul,
Grave for me an ample bowl,
Worthy to shine in hall or bower,
When spring-time brings the reveller's hour.
Grave it with themes of chaste design,
Fit for a simple board like mine.
Display not there the barbarous rites
In which religious zeal delights;
Nor any tale of tragic fate
Which History shudders to relate.
No — cull thy fancies from above,
Themes of heav'n and themes of love.
Let Bacchus, Jove's ambrosial boy,
Distil the grape in drops of joy,
And while he smiles at every tear,
Let warm-ey'd Venus, dancing near,
With spirits of the genial bed,
The dewy herbage deftly tread.
Let Love be there, without his arms [2],
In timid nakedness of charms;
And all the Graces, link'd with Love,
Stray, laughing, through the shadowy grove;
While rosy boys disporting round,
In circlets trip the velvet ground.
But ah! if there Apollo toys,
I tremble for the rosy boys.[3]

ODE VI.[4]

As late I sought the spangled bowers,
To cull a wreath of matin flowers,
Where many an early rose was weeping,
I found the urchin Cupid sleeping.[5]
I caught the boy, a goblet's tide
Was richly mantling by my side,
I caught him by his downy wing,
And whelm'd him in the racy spring.
Then drank I down the poison'd bowl,
And Love now nestles in my soul.
Oh yes, my soul is Cupid's nest,
I feel him fluttering in my breast.

[1] Degen thinks that this ode is a more modern imitation of the preceding. There is a poem by Cælius Calcagninus, in the manner of both, where he gives instructions about the making of a ring.

Tornabis annulum mihi
Et fabre, et apte, et commode, &c. &c.

[2] *Let Love be there, without his arms, &c.*] Thus Sannazaro in the eclogue of Gallicio nell' Arcadia: —

Vegnan li vaghi Amori
Senza fiammelle, ò strali,
Scherzando insieme pargoletti e nudi.

Fluttering on the busy wing,
A train of naked Cupids came,
Sporting around in harmless ring,
Without a dart, without a flame.

And thus in the Pervigilium Veneris: —

Ite nymphæ, posuit arma, feriatus est amor.

Love is disarm'd — ye nymphs, in safety stray,
Your bosoms now may boast a holiday!

[3] *But ah! if there Apollo toys,*
I tremble for the rosy boys.] An allusion to the fable, that Apollo had killed his beloved boy Hyacinth, while playing with him at quoits. "This (says M. la Fosse) is assuredly the sense of the text, and it cannot admit of any other."

The Italian translators, to save themselves the trouble of a note, have taken the liberty of making Anacreon himself explain this fable. Thus Salvini, the most literal of any of them: —

Ma con lor non giuochi Apollo;
Che in fiero risco
Col duro disco
A Giacinto fiaccò il collo.

[4] This beautiful fiction, which the commentators have attributed to Julian, a royal poet, the Vatican MS. pronounces to be the genuine offspring of Anacreon. It has, indeed, all the features of the parent: —

et facile insciis
Noscitetur ab omnibus.

[5] *Where many an early rose was weeping,*
I found the urchin Cupid sleeping.] This idea is prettily imitated in the following epigram by Andreas Naugerius: —

Florentes dum forte vagans mea Hyella per hortos
Texit odoratis lilia cana rosis,
Ecce rosas inter latitantem invenit Amorem
Et simul annexis floribus implicuit.
Luctatur primo, et contra nitentibus alis
Indomitus tentat solvere vincla puer:
Mox ubi lacteolas et dignas matre papillas
Vidit et ora ipsos nata movere Deos,
Impositosque comæ ambrosios ut sentit odores
Quosque legit diti messe beatus Arabs;
"I (dixit) mea, quære novum tibi, mater, Amorem,
Imperio sedes hæc erit apta meo."

As fair Hyella, through the bloomy grove,
A wreath of many mingled flow'rets wove,
Within a rose a sleeping Love she found,
And in the twisted wreaths the baby bound.
Awhile he struggled, and impatient tried
To break the rosy bonds the virgin tied;
But when he saw her bosom's radiant swell,
Her features, where the eye of Jove might dwell;
And caught th' ambrosial odours of her hair,
Rich as the breathings of Arabian air;
"Oh! mother Venus," (said the raptur'd child,
By charms, of more than mortal bloom, beguil'd,)
"Go, seek another boy, thou'st lost thine own,
"Hyella's arms shall now be Cupid's throne!"

This epigram of Naugerius is imitated by Lodovico Dolce in a poem, beginning

Mentre raccoglie hor uno, hor altro fiore
Vicina a un rio di chiare et lucid' onde,
Lidia, &c. &c.

ODE VII.[1]

THE women tell me every day
That all my bloom has past away.
"Behold," the pretty wantons cry,
"Behold this mirror with a sigh;
The locks upon thy brow are few,
And, like the rest, they're withering too!"
Whether decline has thinn'd my hair,
I'm sure I neither know nor care;[2]
But this I know, and this I feel,
As onward to the tomb I steal,
That still as death approaches nearer,
The joys of life are sweeter, dearer;[3]
And had I but an hour to live,
That little hour to bliss I'd give.

ODE VIII.[4]

I CARE not for the idle state
Of Persia's king[5], the rich, the great:
I envy not the monarch's throne,
Nor wish the treasur'd gold my own.

But oh! be mine the rosy wreath,
Its freshness o'er my brow to breathe;
Be mine the rich perfumes that flow,
To cool and scent my locks of snow.[6]
To-day I'll haste to quaff my wine,
As if to-morrow ne'er would shine;
But if to-morrow comes, why then —
I'll haste to quaff my wine again.
And thus while all our days are bright,
Nor time has dimm'd their bloomy light,
Let us the festal hours beguile
With mantling cup and cordial smile;
And shed from each new bowl of wine
The richest drop on Bacchus' shrine.
For Death may come, with brow unpleasant,
May come, when least we wish him present,
And beckon to the sable shore,
And grimly bid us — drink no more!

ODE IX.

I PRAY thee, by the gods above,[7]
Give me the mighty bowl I love,

[1] Alberti has imitated this ode in a poem, beginning

Nisa mi dice e Clori
Tirsi, tu se' pur veglio.

[2] *Whether decline has thinn'd my hair,*
I'm sure I neither know nor care;] Henry Stephen very justly remarks the elegant negligence of expression in the original here:

Εγω δε τας κομας μεν,
Ειτ εισιν, ειτ' απηλθον,
Ουκ οιδα.

And Longepierre has adduced from Catullus, what he thinks a similar instance of this simplicity of manner: —

Ipse quis sit, utrum sit, an non sit, id quoque nescit

Longepierre was a good critic; but perhaps the line which he has selected is a specimen of a carelessness not very commendable. At the same time I confess, that none of the Latin poets have ever appeared to me so capable of imitating the graces of Anacreon as Catullus, if he had not allowed a depraved imagination to hurry him so often into mere vulgar licentiousness.

[3] *That still as death approaches nearer,*
The joys of life are sweeter, dearer;] Pontanus has a very delicate thought upon the subject of old age:

Quid rides, Matrona? senem quid temnis amantem?
Quisquis amat nullâ est conditione senex.

Why do you scorn my want of youth,
And with a smile my brow behold?
Lady dear! believe this truth,
That he who loves cannot be old.

[4] "The German poet Lessing has imitated this ode. Vol. i. p. 24." Degen. Gail de Editionibus.

Baxter conjectures that this was written upon the occasion of our poet's returning the money to Polycrates, according to the anecdote in Stobæus.

[5] *I care not for the idle state*
Of Persia's king, &c.] "There is a fragment of Archilochus in Plutarch, 'De tranquillitate animi,' which our poet has very closely imitated here; it begins,

Ου μοι τα Γυγεω του πολυχρυσου μελει." BARNES.

In one of the monkish imitators of Anacreon we find the same thought: —

Ψυχην εμην τρεφω,
Τι σοι δελεις γενεσθαι;
Θελεις Γυγεω τα και τα;

[6] *Be mine the rich perfumes that flow,*
To cool and scent my locks of snow.] In the original, μυρoισι καταβρεχειν γενυην. On account of this idea of perfuming the beard, Cornelius de Pauw pronounces the whole ode to be the spurious production of some lascivious monk, who was nursing his beard with unguents. But he should have known, that this was an ancient eastern custom, which, if we may believe Savary, still exists: "Vous voyez, Monsieur (says this traveller), que l'usage antique de se parfumer la tête et la barbe *, célébré par le prophète Roi, subsiste encore de nos jours." Lettre 12. Savary likewise cites this very ode of Anacreon. Angerianus has not thought the idea inconsistent, having introduced it in the following lines:

Hæc mihi cura, rosis et cingere tempora myrto,
Et curas multo delapidare mero.
Hæc mihi cura, comas et barbam tingere succo
Assyrio et dulces continuare jocos.

This be my care, to wreathe my brow with flowers,
To drench my sorrows in the ample bowl;
To pour rich perfumes o'er my beard in showers,
And give full loose to mirth and joy of soul!

[7] The poet is here in a frenzy of enjoyment, and it is, indeed, "amabilis insania;"—

Furor di poesia,
Di lascivia, e di vino,
Triplicato furore,
Bacchо, Apollo, et Amore.
Ritratti del Cavalier Marino.

This is truly, as Scaliger expresses it,

—— Insanire dulce
Et sapidum furere furorem.

* "Sicut unguentum in capite quod descendit in barbam Aaronis. Psealme cxxxiii."

And let me sing, in wild delight,
"I will—I will be mad to-night!"
Alcmæon once, as legends tell,
Was frenzied by the fiends of hell;
Orestes too; with naked tread,
Frantic pac'd the mountain-head;
And why? a murder'd mother's shade
Haunted them still where'er they strayed.
But ne'er could I a murderer be,
The grape alone shall bleed by me;
Yet can I shout, with wild delight,
"I will—I will be mad to-night."

Alcides' self, in days of yore,
Imbru'd his hands in youthful gore,
And brandish'd, with a maniac joy,
The quiver of th' expiring boy:
And Ajax, with tremendous shield,
Infuriate scour'd the guiltless field.
But I, whose hands no weapon ask,
No armour but this joyous flask;
The trophy of whose frantic hours
Is but a scatter'd wreath of flowers,
Ev'n I can sing with wild delight,
"I will—I will be mad to-night!"

ODE X.[1]

How am I to punish thee,
For the wrong thou'st done to me,
Silly swallow, prating thing[2]—
Shall I clip that wheeling wing?
Or, as Tereus did, of old,[3]
(So the fabled tale is told,)
Shall I tear that tongue away,
Tongue that utter'd such a lay?

Ah, how thoughtless hast thou been!
Long before the dawn was seen,
When a dream came o'er my mind,
Picturing her I worship, kind,
Just when I was nearly blest,
Loud thy matins broke my rest!

ODE XI.[4]

"TELL me, gentle youth, I pray thee,
What in purchase shall I pay thee
For this little waxen toy,
Image of the Paphian boy?"
Thus I said, the other day,
To a youth who pass'd my way:
"Sir," (he answer'd, and the while
Answer'd all in Doric style,)
"Take it, for a trifle take it;
'Twas not I who dared to make it;
No, believe me, 'twas not I;
Oh, it has cost me many a sigh,
And I can no longer keep
Little gods, who murder sleep!"[5]
"Here, then, here," (I said with joy,)
Here is silver for the boy:
He shall be my bosom guest,
Idol of my pious breast!"

Now, young Love, I have thee mine,
Warm me with that torch of thine;
Make me feel as I have felt,
Or thy waxen frame shall melt:
I must burn with warm desire,
Or thou, my boy—in yonder fire.[6]

[1] This ode is addressed to a swallow. I find from Degen and from Gail's index, that the German poet Weisse has imitated it, Scherz. Lieder. lib. ii. carm. 5.; that Ramler also has imitated it, Lyr. Blumenlese, lib. iv. p. 335.; and some others. See Gail de Editionibus.

We are here referred by Degen to that dull book, the Epistles of Alciphron, tenth epistle, third book; where Iophon complains to Eraston of being awakened by the crowing of a cock, from his vision of riches.

[2] *Silly swallow, prating thing, &c.*] The loquacity of the swallow was proverbialised; thus Nicostratus:—

Ει το συνεχως και πολλα και ταχεως λαλειν
Ην του φρονειν παραιτημον, αι χελιδονες
Ελιγοντ' αν ἡμων σωφρονιστεραι πολυ.

If in prating from morning till night
A sign of our wisdom there be,
The swallows are wiser by right,
For they prattle much faster than we.

[3] *Or, as Tereus did, of old, &c.*] Modern poetry has confirmed the name of Philomel upon the nightingale; but many respectable authorities among the ancients assigned this metamorphose to Progne, and made Philomel the swallow, as Anacreon does here.

[4] It is difficult to preserve with any grace the narrative simplicity of this ode, and the humour of the turn with which it concludes. I feel, indeed, that the transaction must appear vapid, if not ludicrous, to an English reader.

[5] *And I can no longer keep*
Little gods, who murder sleep!] I have not literally rendered the epithet παντοειματα; if it has any meaning here, it is one, perhaps, better omitted.

[6] *I must burn with warm desire,*
Or thou, my boy—in yonder fire.] From this Longepierre conjectures, that, whatever Anacreon might say, he felt sometimes the inconveniences of old age, and here solicits from the power of Love a warmth which he could no longer expect from Nature

ODE XII.

They tell how Atys, wild with love,
Roams the mount and haunted grove;[1]
Cybele's name he howls around,[2]
The gloomy blast returns the sound!
Oft too, by Claros' hallow'd spring,[3]
The votaries of the laurell'd king
Quaff the inspiring, magic stream,
And rave in wild, prophetic dream.
But frenzied dreams are not for me,
Great Bacchus is my deity!
Full of mirth, and full of him,
While floating odours round me swim,[4]
While mantling bowls are full supplied,
And you sit blushing by my side,
I will be mad and raving too —
Mad, my girl, with love for you!

ODE XIII.

I will, I will, the conflict's past,
And I'll consent to love at last.
Cupid has long, with smiling art,
Invited me to yield my heart;
And I have thought that peace of mind
Should not be for a smile resign'd:
And so repell'd the tender lure,
And hop'd my heart would sleep secure.

But, slighted in his boasted charms,
The angry infant flew to arms;
He slung his quiver's golden frame,
He took his bow, his shafts of flame,
And proudly summon'd me to yield,
Or meet him on the martial field.
And what did I unthinking do?
I took to arms, undaunted, too;[5]
Assum'd the corslet, shield, and spear,
And, like Pelides, smil'd at fear.
Then (hear it, all ye powers above!)
I fought with Love! I fought with Love!
And now his arrows all were shed,
And I had just in terror fled —
When, heaving an indignant sigh,
To see me thus unwounded fly,
And, having now no other dart,
He shot himself into my heart![6]

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[1] *They tell how Atys, wild with love,*
Roams the mount and haunted grove;] There are many contradictory stories of the loves of Cybele and Atys. It is certain that he was mutilated, but whether by his own fury, or Cybele's jealousy, is a point upon which authors are not agreed.

[2] *Cybele's name he howls around, &c.*] I have here adopted the accentuation which Elias Andreas gives to Cybele:—

In montibus Cybèlen
Magno sonans boatu.

[3] *Oft too, by Claros' hallow'd spring, &c.*] This fountain was in a grove, consecrated to Apollo, and situated between Colophon and Lebedos, in Ionia. The god had an oracle there. Scaliger thus alludes to it in his Anacreontica:

Semel ut concitus œstro,
Veluti qui Clarias aquas
Ebibere loquaces,
Quo plus canunt, plura volunt.

[4] *While floating odours, &c.*] Spaletti has quite mistaken the import of περισσθεις, as applied to the poet's mistress — "Meâ fatigatus amicâ;" — thus interpreting it in a sense which must want either delicacy or gallantry; if not, perhaps, both.

[5] *And what did I unthinking do?*
I took to arms, undaunted, too;] Longepierre has here quoted an epigram from the Anthologia. in which the poet assumes Reason as the armour against Love.

Ωπλισμαι προς ερωτα περι στερνοισι λογισμον,
Ουδε με νικησει, μουνος εων προς ενα·
Θνατος δ' αθανατου συνελευσομαι· την δε βοηθον
Βακχον εχω, τι μονος προς δυ' εγω δυναμαι;

With Reason I cover my breast as a shield,
And fearlessly meet little Love in the field;
Thus fighting his godship, I'll ne'er be dismay'd;
But if Bacchus should ever advance to his aid,
Alas! then, unable to combat the two,
Unfortunate warrior, what should I do?

This idea of the irresistibility of Cupid and Bacchus united, is delicately expressed in an Italian poem, which is so truly Anacreontic, that its introduction here may be pardoned. It is an imitation, indeed, of our poet's sixth ode.

Lavossi Amore in quel vicino fiume
Ove giuro (Pastor) che bevend' io
Bevei le fiamme, anzi l'istesso Dio,
Ch'or con l'humide piume
Lascivetto mi scherza al cor intorno.
Ma che sarei s'io lo bevessi un giorno,
Bacco, nel tuo liquore?
Sarei, piu che non sono ebro d'Amore.

The urchin of the bow and quiver
Was bathing in a neighbouring river,
Where, as I drank on yester-eve,
(Shepherd-youth, the tale believe,)
'Twas not a cooling, crystal draught,
'Twas liquid flame I madly quaff'd;
For Love was in the rippling tide,
I felt him to my bosom glide;
And now the wily, wanton minion
Plays round my heart with restless pinion.
A day it was of fatal star;
But ah, 'twere even more fatal far,
If, Bacchus, in thy cup of fire,
I found this flutt'ring, young desire:
Then, then indeed my soul would prove,
Ev'n more than ever, drunk with love!

[6] *And, having now no other dart,*
He shot himself into my heart!] Dryden has parodied this thought in the following extravagant lines:—

——— I'm all o'er Love;
Nay, I am Love, Love shot, and shot so fast,
He shot himself into my breast at last.

My heart—alas the luckless day!
Receiv'd the god, and died away.
Farewell, farewell, my faithless shield!
Thy lord at length is forc'd to yield.
Vain, vain, is every outward care,
The foe's within, and triumphs there.

ODE XIV.

COUNT me, on the summer trees,
Every leaf that courts the breeze;[2]
Count me, on the foamy deep,
Every wave that sinks to sleep;
Then, when you have number'd these
Billowy tides and leafy trees,

Count me all the flames I prove,
All the gentle nymphs I love.
First, of pure Athenian maids
Sporting in their olive shades,
You may reckon just a score,
Nay, I'll grant you fifteen more.
In the fam'd Corinthian grove,
Where such countless wantons rove,[3]
Chains of beauties may be found,
Chains, by which my heart is bound;
There, indeed, are nymphs divine,
Dangerous to a soul like mine.[4]
Many bloom in Lesbos' isle;
Many in Ionia smile;
Rhodes a pretty swarm can boast;
Caria too contains a host.
Sum them all—of brown and fair
You may count two thousand there.

Oh! I'm such a roving elf,
That the Queen of love herself,
Though she practis'd all her wiles,
Rosy blushes, wreathed smiles,
All her beauty's proud endeavour
Could not chain my heart for ever.

[1] The poet, in this catalogue of his mistresses, means nothing more than, by a lively hyperbole, to inform us, that his heart, unfettered by any one object, was warm with devotion towards the sex in general. Cowley is indebted to this ode for the hint of his ballad, called "The Chronicle;" and the learned Menage has imitated it in a Greek Anacreontic, which has so much ease and spirit, that the reader may not be displeased at seeing it here:—

ΠΡΟΣ ΒΙΩΝΑ.

Ει αλσεων τα φυλλα,
Λειμωνιους τε ποιας,
Ει νυκτος αστρα παντα,
Παρακτιους τε ψαμμους,
Αλος τε κυματωδη,
Δυνη, Βιων, αριθμειν,
Και τους εμους ερωτας
Δυνη, Βιων, αριθμειν.
Κομην, γυναικα, Χηραν,
Σμικρην, Μεσην, Μεγιστην,
Λευκην τε και Μελαιναν,
Ορειαδας, Ναπαιας,
Νηρηϊδας τε πασας
'Ο σος φιλος φιλησε.
Παντων κορος μεν εστιν.
Αυτην νεων Ερωτων,
Δεσποιναν Αφροδιτην,
Χρυσην, καλην, γλυκειαν,
Ερασμιαν, τοθεινην,
Αει μουην φιλησαι
Εγωγε μη δοναιμην.

Tell the foliage of the woods,
Tell the billows of the floods,
Number midnight's starry store,
And the sands that crowd the shore,
Then, my Bion, thou mayst count
Of my loves the vast amount.
I've been loving, all my days,
Many nymphs, in many ways;
Virgin, widow, maid, and wife—
I've been doting all my life.
Naiads, Nereids, nymphs of fountains,
Goddesses of groves and mountains,
Fair and sable, great and small,
Yes, I swear I've lov'd them all!
Soon was every passion over,
I was but the moment's lover;

[2] *Count me, on the summer trees,*
Every leaf, &c.] This figure is called, by rhetoricians, the Impossible (αδυνατον), and is very frequently made use of in poetry. The amatory writers have exhausted a world of imagery by it, to express the infinite number of kisses which they require from the lips of their mistresses: in this Catullus led the way.

—Quam sidera multa, cum tacet nox,
Furtivos hominum vident amores;
Tam te basia multa basiare
Vesano satis, et super, Catullo est:
Quæ nec pernumerare curiosi
Possint, nec mala fascinare lingua. Carm. 7.

As many stellar eyes of light,
As through the silent waste of night,
Gazing upon this world of shade,
Witness some secret youth and maid,
Who fair as thou, and fond as I,
In stolen joys enamour'd lie,—
So many kisses, ere I slumber,
Upon those dew-bright lips I'll number;
So many kisses we shall count,
Envy can never tell the' amount.
No tongue shall blab the sum, but mine;
No lips shall fascinate, but thine!

[3] *In the fam'd Corinthian grove,*
Where such countless wantons rove, &c.] Corinth was very famous for the beauty and number of its courtezans. Venus was the deity principally worshipped by the people, and their constant prayer was, that the gods should increase the number of her worshippers. We may perceive from the application of the verb κορινθιαζειν, in Aristophanes, that the lubricity of the Corinthians had become proverbial.

[4] *There, indeed, are nymphs divine,*
Dangerous to a soul like mine!] "With justice has the poet attributed beauty to the women of Greece."—*Degen.*

M. de Pauw, the author of Dissertations upon the Greeks, is of a different opinion; he thinks, that by a capricious partiality of nature, the other sex *had all the beauty*; and by this supposition endeavours to account for a very singular depravation of instinct among that people.

What, you stare? I pray you, peace!
More I'll find before I cease.
Have I told you all my flames,
'Mong the amorous Syrian dames?
Have I numbered every one,
Glowing under Egypt's sun?
Or the nymphs, who blushing sweet
Deck the shrine of Love in Crete;
Where the God, with festal play,
Holds eternal holiday?
Still in clusters, still remain
Gades' warm, desiring train; [1]
Still there lies a myriad more
On the sable India's shore;
These, and many far remov'd,
All are loving—all are lov'd!

ODE XV.

Tell me, why, my sweetest dove, [2]
Thus your humid pinions move,
Shedding through the air in showers
Essence of the balmiest flowers?
Tell me whither, whence you rove,
Tell me all, my sweetest dove.

Curious stranger, I belong
To the bard of Teian song;
With his mandate now I fly
To the nymph of azure eye;—
She, whose eye has madden'd many, [3]
But the poet more than any.

Venus, for a hymn of love,
Warbled in her votive grove, [4]
('Twas in sooth a gentle lay,)
Gave me to the bard away.
See me now his faithful minion,—
Thus with softly-gliding pinion,
To his lovely girl I bear
Songs of passion through the air.
Oft he blandly whispers me,
"Soon, my bird, I'll set you free."
But in vain he'll bid me fly,
I shall serve him till I die.
Never could my plumes sustain
Ruffling winds and chilling rain,
O'er the plains, or in the dell,
On the mountain's savage swell,
Seeking in the desert wood
Gloomy shelter, rustic food.
Now I lead a life of ease,
Far from rugged haunts like these.
From Anacreon's hand I eat
Food delicious, viands sweet;
Flutter o'er his goblet's brim,
Sip the foamy wine with him.
Then, when I have wanton'd round
To his lyre's beguiling sound;
Or with gently-moving wings
Fann'd the minstrel while he sings:
On his harp I sink in slumbers,
Dreaming still of dulcet numbers!

This is all—away—away—
You have made me waste the day.
How I've chatter'd! prating crow
Never yet did chatter so.

[1] *Gades' warm, desiring train;*] The Gaditanian girls were like the Baladières of India, whose dances are thus described by a French author; "Les danses sont presque toutes des pantomimes d'amour; le plan, le dessein, les attitudes, les mesures, les sons et les cadences de ces ballets, tout respire cette passion et en exprime les voluptés et les fureurs."—*Histoire du Commerce des Europ. dans les deux Indes. Raynal.*

The music of the Gaditanian females had all the voluptuous character of their dancing, as appears from Martial:—

Cantica qui Nili, qui Gaditana susurrat.
Lib. iii. epig. 63.

Lodovico Ariosto had this ode of our bard in his mind, when he wrote his poem "De diversis amoribus." See the Anthologia Italorum.

[2] The dove of Anacreon, bearing a letter from the poet to his mistress, is met by a stranger, with whom this dialogue is imagined.

The ancients made use of letter-carrying pigeons, when they went any distance from home, as the most certain means of conveying intelligence back. That tender domestic attachment, which attracts this delicate little bird through every danger and difficulty, till it settles in its native nest, affords to the author of "The Pleasures of Memory" a fine and interesting exemplification of his subject.

Led by what chart, transports the timid dove
The wreaths of conquest, or the vows of love!

See the poem. Daniel Heinsius, in speaking of Dousa, who adopted this method at the siege of Leyden, expresses a similar sentiment.

Quo patriæ non tendit amor? Mandata referre
Postquam hominem nequiit mittere, misit avem.

Fuller tells us, that at the siege of Jerusalem, the Christians intercepted a letter, tied to the legs of a dove, in which the Persian Emperor promised assistance to the besieged.—Holy War, cap. 24. book i.

[3] *She, whose eye has madden'd many, &c.*] For τυφανον, in the original, Zeune and Schneider conjecture that we should read τυφανον, in allusion to the strong influence which this object of his love held over the mind of Polycrates. See Degen.

[4] *Venus, for a hymn of love,*
Warbled in her votive grove, &c.] "This passage is invaluable, and I do not think that any thing so beautiful or so delicate has ever been said. What an idea does it give of the poetry of the man, from whom Venus herself, the mother of the Graces and the Pleasures, purchases a little hymn with one of her favourite doves!" *Longepierre.*

De Pauw objects to the authenticity of this ode, because it makes Anacreon his own panegyrist; but poets have a licence for praising themselves, which, with some indeed, may be considered as comprised under their general privilege of fiction.

ODE XVI.[1]

THOU, whose soft and rosy hues
Mimic form and soul infuse,[2]
Best of painters, come, portray
The lovely maid that's far away.[3]
Far away, my soul! thou art,
But I've thy beauties all by heart.
Paint her jetty ringlets playing,
Silky locks, like tendrils straying;[4]
And, if painting hath the skill
To make the spicy balm distil,[5]
Let every little lock exhale
A sigh of perfume on the gale.
Where her tresses' curly flow
Darkles o'er the brow of snow,
Let her forehead beam to light,
Burnish'd as the ivory bright.
Let her eyebrows smoothly rise
In jetty arches o'er her eyes,
Each, a crescent gently gliding,
Just commingling, just dividing.

But, hast thou any sparkles warm,
The lightning of her eyes to form?
Let them effuse the azure rays
That in Minerva's glances blaze,
Mix'd with the liquid light that lies
In Cytherea's languid eyes.[6]
O'er her nose and cheek be shed
Flushing white and soften'd red;
Mingling tints, as when there glows
In snowy milk the bashful rose.[7]
Then her lip, so rich in blisses,
Sweet petitioner for kisses,[8]
Rosy nest, where lurks Persuasion,
Mutely courting Love's invasion.

[1] This ode and the next may be called companion-pictures; they are highly finished, and give us an excellent idea of the taste of the ancients in beauty. Franciscus Junius quotes them in his third book "De Pictura Veterum."

This ode has been imitated by Ronsard, Giuliano Goselini, &c. &c. Scaliger alludes to it thus in his Anacreontica:

Olim lepore blando,
Litis versibus
Candidus Anacreon
Quam pingeret amicus
Descripsit Venerem suam.

The Teian bard of former days,
Attun'd his sweet descriptive lays,
And taught the painter's hand to trace
His fair beloved's every grace.

In the dialogue of Caspar Barlæus, entitled "An formosa sit ducenda," the reader will find many curious ideas and descriptions of womanly beauty.

[2] *Thou, whose soft and rosy hues,*
Mimic form and soul infuse,] I have followed here the reading of the Vatican MS. ροδινης. Painting is called "the rosy art," either in reference to colouring, or as an indefinite epithet of excellence, from the association of beauty with that flower. Salvini has adopted this reading in his literal translation:—

Della rosea arte signore.

[3] *The lovely maid that's far away.*] If this portrait of the poet's mistress be not merely ideal, the omission of her name is much to be regretted. Meleager, in an epigram on Anacreon, mentions "the golden Euryppyle" as his mistress.

Βεβληκως χρυσεην χειρως εσ' Ευρυπυλην.

[4] *Paint her jetty ringlets playing,*
Silky locks like tendrils straying;] The ancients have been very enthusiastic in their praises of the beauty of hair. Apuleius, in the second book of his Milesiacs, says, that Venus herself, if she were bald, though surrounded by the Graces and the Loves, could not be pleasing even to her husband Vulcan.

Stesichorus gave the epithet καλλιπλοκαμος to the Graces, and Simonides bestowed the same upon the Muses. See Hadrian Junius's Dissertation upon Hair.

To this passage of our poet, Seldon alluded in a note on the Polyolbion of Drayton, Song the Second, where observing, that the epithet "black-haired" was given by some of the ancients to the goddess Isis, he says, "Nor will I swear, but that Anacreon (a man very judicious in the provoking motives of wanton love), intending to bestow on his sweet mistress that one of the titles of woman's special ornament, well-haired (καλλιπλοκαμος), thought of this when he gave his painter direction to make her black-haired."

[5] *And, if painting hath the skill*
To make the spicy balm distil, &c.] Thus Philostratus, speaking of a picture: επαινω και τον ενδεσιον των ροδων, και φημι γεγραφθαι αυτα μετα της οσμης. "I admire the dewiness of these roses, and could say that their very smell was painted."

[6] *Mix'd with the liquid light that lies*
In Cytherea's languid eyes.] Marchetti explains thus the ὑγρον of the original:—

Dipingili umidetti
Tremuli e lascivetti,
Quai gli ha Cipigna l'alma Dea d' Amore.

Tasso has painted in the same manner the eyes of Armida:—

Qual raggio in onda le scintilla un riso
Negli umidi occhi tremulo e lascivo.

Within her humid, melting eyes
A brilliant ray of laughter lies,
Soft as the broken solar beam,
That trembles in the azure stream.

The mingled expression of dignity and tenderness, which Anacreon requires the painter to infuse into the eyes of his mistress, is more amply described in the subsequent ode. Both descriptions are so exquisitely touched, that the artist must have been great indeed, if he did not yield in painting to the poet.

[7] *Mingling tints, as when there glows*
In snowy milk the bashful rose.] Thus Propertius, eleg. 3. lib. ii.

Utque rosæ puro lacte natant folia.

And Davenant, in a little poem called "The Mistress,"

Catch as it falls the Scythian snow,
Bring blushing roses steep'd in milk.

Thus too Taygetus:—

Quæ lac atque rosas vincis candore rubenti.

These last words may perhaps defend the "flushing white" of the translation.

[8] *Then her lip, so rich in blisses,*
Sweet petitioner for kisses,] The "lip, provoking kisses,"

Next, beneath the velvet chin,
Whose dimple hides a Love within, [1]
Mould her neck with grace descending,
In a heaven of beauty ending;
While countless charms, above, below,
Sport and flutter round its snow.
Now let a floating, lucid veil,
Shadow her form, but not conceal; [2]
A charm may peep, a hue may beam,
And leave the rest to Fancy's dream.
Enough—'tis she! 'tis all I seek;
It glows, it lives, it soon will speak!

ODE XVII. [3]

AND now with all thy pencil's truth,
Portray Bathyllus, lovely youth!
Let his hair, in masses bright,
Fall like floating rays of light; [4]

And there the raven's die confuse
With the golden sunbeam's hues.
Let no wreath, with artful twine, [5]
The flowing of his locks confine;
But leave them loose to every breeze,
To take what shape and course they please.
Beneath the forehead, fair as snow,
But flush'd with manhood's early glow,
And guileless as the dews of dawn, [6]
Let the majestic brows be drawn,
Of ebon hue, enrich'd by gold,
Such as dark, shining snakes unfold.
Mix in his eyes the power alike,
With love to win, with awe to strike; [7]
Borrow from Mars his look of ire,
From Venus her soft glance of fire;
Blend them in such expression here,
That we by turns may hope and fear!

Now from the sunny apple seek
The velvet down that spreads his cheek;

in the original, is a strong and beautiful expression. Achilles Tatius speaks of χειλη μαλθακα προς τα φιλημματα, "Lips soft and delicate for kissing." A grave old commentator, Dionysius Lambinus, in his notes upon Lucretius, tells us with the apparent authority of experience, that "Suavius viros osculantur puellæ labiosæ, quam quæ sunt brevibus labris." And Æneas Sylvius, in his tedious uninteresting story of the loves of Euryalus and Lucretia, where he particularises the beauties of the heroine (in a very false and laboured style of latinity), describes her lips thus:—Os parvum decensque, labia corallini coloris ad morsum aptissima."—Epist. 114. lib. i.

[1] *Next, beneath the velvet chin,*
Whose dimple hides a love within, &c.] Madame Dacier has quoted here two pretty lines of Varro:—

Sigilla in mento impressa Amoris digitulo
Vestigio demonstrant mollitudinem.

In her chin is a delicate dimple,
By Cupid's own finger imprest;
There Beauty, bewitchingly simple,
Has chosen her innocent nest.

[2] *Now let a floating, lucid veil,*
Shadow her form, but not conceal; &c.] This delicate art of description, which leaves imagination to complete the picture, has been seldom adopted in the imitations of this beautiful poem. Ronsard is exceptionably minute; and Politianus, in his charming portrait of a girl, full of rich and exquisite diction, has lifted the veil rather too much. The "questo che tu m' intendi" should be always left to fancy.

[3] The reader, who wishes to acquire an accurate idea of the judgment of the ancients in beauty, will be indulged by consulting Junius de Pictura Veterum, lib. iii. c. 9., where he will find a very curious selection of descriptions and epithets of personal perfections. Junius compares this ode with a description of Theodoric, king of the Goths, in the second epistle, first book, of Sidonius Apollinaris.

[4] *Let his hair, in masses bright,*
Fall like floating rays of light; &c.] He here describes the sunny hair, the "flava coma," which the ancients so much admired. The Romans gave this colour artificially to their hair. See Stanisl. Kobienzyck. de Luxu Romanorum.

[5] *Let no wreath, with artful twine, &c.*] If the original here, which is particularly beautiful, can admit of any additional value, that value is conferred by Gray's admiration of it. See his letters to West.

Some annotators have quoted on this passage the description of Photis's hair in Apuleius; but nothing can be more distant from the simplicity of our poet's manner, than that affectation of richness which distinguishes the style of Apuleius.

[6] *But flush'd with manhood's early glow,*
And guileless as the dews of dawn, &c.] Torrentius, upon the words "insignem tenui fronte," in Horace, Od. 33. lib. i. is of opinion, incorrectly, I think, that "tenui" here bears the same meaning as the word απαλον.

[7] *Mix in his eyes the power alike,*
With love to win, with awe to strike; &c.] Tasso gives a similar character to the eyes of Clorinda:—

Lampeggiar gli occhi, e folgorar gli sguardi
Dolci ne l' ira.

Her eyes were flashing with a heavenly heat,
A fire that, even in anger, still was sweet.

The poetess Veronica Cambara is more diffuse upon this variety of expression:—

Occhi lucenti e belli,
Come esser puo ch' in un medesmo istante
Nascan de voi si nuove forme et tante?
Lieti, mesti, superbi, humil', altieri,
Vi mostrate in un punto, onde di speme,
Et di timor, de empiete, &c. &c.

Oh! tell me, brightly-beaming eye,
Whence in your little orbit lie
So many different traits of fire,
Expressing each a new desire.
Now with pride or scorn you darkle,
Now with love, with gladness, sparkle,
While we who view the varying mirror,
Feel by turns both hope and terror.

Chevreau, citing the lines of our poet, in his critique on the poems of Malherbe, produces a Latin version of them from a manuscript which he had seen, entitled "Joan. Falconis Anacreontici Lusus."

And there, if art so far can go,
Th' ingenuous blush of boyhood show.
While, for his mouth — but no, — in vain
Would worlds its witching charm explain.
Make it the very seat, the throne,
That Eloquence would claim her own; [1]
And let the lips, though silent, wear
A life-look, as if words were there. [2]

Next thou his ivory neck must trace,
Moulded with soft but manly grace;
Fair as the neck of Paphia's boy,
Where Paphia's arms have hung in joy.
Give him the winged Hermes' hand, [3]
With which he waves his snaky wand;
Let Bacchus the broad chest supply,
And Leda's sons the sinewy thigh;
While, through his whole transparent frame,
Thou show'st the stirrings of that flame,
Which kindles, when the first love-sigh
Steals from the heart, unconscious why.

But sure thy pencil, though so bright,
Is envious of the eye's delight,
Or its enamour'd touch would show
The shoulder, fair as sunless snow,
Which now in veiling shadow lies,
Remov'd from all but Fancy's eyes.
Now, for his feet — but hold — forbear —
I see the sun-god's portrait there; [4]
Why paint Bathyllus? when, in truth,
There, in that god, thou'st sketch'd the youth.
Enough — let this bright form be mine,
And send the boy to Samos' shrine;
Phœbus shall then Bathyllus be,
Bathyllus then, the deity!

ODE XVIII. [5]

Now the star of day is high,
Fly, my girls, in pity fly,
Bring me wine in brimming urns, [6]
Cool my lip, it burns, it burns!
Sunn'd by the meridian fire,
Panting, languid I expire.
Give me all those humid flowers, [7]
Drop them o'er my brow in showers.
Scarce a breathing chaplet now
Lives upon my feverish brow;

[1] *That Eloquence would claim her own;*] In the original, as in the preceding ode, Pitho, the goddess of persuasion, or eloquence. It was worthy of the delicate imagination of the Greeks to deify Persuasion, and give her the lips for her throne. We are here reminded of a very interesting fragment of Anacreon, preserved by the scholiast upon Pindar, and supposed to belong to a poem reflecting with some severity on Simonides, who was the first, we are told, that ever made a hireling of his muse: —

Ουδ' αργυρεη ποτ' ελαμψε Πειθω.
Nor yet had fair Persuasion shone
In silver splendours, not her own.

[2] *And let the lips, though silent, wear*
A life-look, as if words were there.] In the original λαλων σιωπη. The mistress of Petrarch "parla con silenzio," which is perhaps the best method of female eloquence.

[3] *Give him the winged Hermes' hand, &c.*] In Shakspeare's Cymbeline there is a similar method of description: —

—— this is his hand,
His foot mercurial, his martial thigh,
The brawns of Hercules.

We find it likewise in Hamlet. Longepierre thinks that the hands of Mercury are selected by Anacreon, on account of the graceful gestures which were supposed to characterise the god of eloquence; but Mercury was also the patron of thieves, and may perhaps be praised as a light-fingered deity

[4] —— *But hold — forbear —*
I see the sun-god's portrait there;] The abrupt turn here is spirited, but requires some explanation. While the artist is pursuing the portrait of Bathyllus, Anacreon, we must suppose, turns round and sees a picture of Apollo, which was intended for an altar at Samos. He then instantly tells the painter to cease his work; that this picture will serve for Bathyllus; and that, when he goes to Samos, he may make an Apollo of the portrait of the boy which he had begun.

"Bathyllus (says Madame Dacier) could not be more elegantly praised, and this one passage does him more honour than the statue, however beautiful it might be, which Polycrates raised to him."

[5] An elegant translation of this ode, says Degen, may be found in Ramler's Lyr. Blumenlese, lib. v. p. 403.

[6] *Bring me wine in brimming urns, &c.*] Orig. πιειν αμυστι. The amystis was a method of drinking used among the Thracians. Thus Horace, "Threiciâ vincat amystide." Mad. Dacier, Longepierre, &c. &c.

Parrhasius, in his twenty-sixth epistle (Thesaur. Critic. vol. i.), explains the amystis as a draught to be exhausted without drawing breath, "uno haustu." A note in the margin of this epistle of Parrhasius says, "Politianus vestem esse putabat," but adds no reference.

[7] *Give me all those humid flowers, &c.*] According to the original reading of this line, the poet says, "Give me the flower of wine" — Date flosculos Lyæi, as it is in the version of Elias Andreas; and

Deh porgetimi del fiore
Di quel almo e buon liquore,

as Regnier has it, who supports the reading. The word Ανθος would undoubtedly bear this application, which is somewhat similar to its import in the epigram of Simonides upon Sophocles: —

Εσβεσθης γεραιε Σοφοκλεες, ανθος αοιδων·

and flos in the Latin is frequently applied in the same manner — thus Cethegus is called by Ennius, Flos inlibatus populi, suadæque medulla, "The immaculate flower of the people, and the very marrow of persuasion." See these verses cited by Aulus Gellius, lib. xii., which Cicero praised, and Seneca thought ridiculous.

But in the passage before us, if we admit εκεινων, according to Faber's conjecture, the sense is sufficiently clear, without having recourse to such refinements.

Every dewy rose I wear
Sheds its tears, and withers there.[1]
But to you, my burning heart,[2]
What can now relief impart?
Can brimming bowl, or flowret's dew,
Cool the flame that scorches you?

ODE XIX.[3]

HERE recline you, gentle maid,[4]
Sweet is this embowering shade;
Sweet the young, the modest trees,
Ruffled by the kissing breeze;
Sweet the little founts that weep,
Lulling soft the mind to sleep;
Hark! they whisper as they roll,
Calm persuasion to the soul;
Tell me, tell me, is not this
All a stilly scene of bliss?
Who, my girl, would pass it by?
Surely neither you nor I.[5]

ODE XX.[6]

ONE day the Muses twin'd the hands
Of infant Love with flow'ry bands;

[1] *Every dewy rose I wear*
Sheds its tears, and withers there.] There are some beautiful lines, by Angerianus, upon a garland, which I cannot resist quoting here: —

Ante fores madidæ sic sic pendete corollæ,
Mane orto imponet Cœlia vos capiti;
At quum per niveam cervicem influxerit humor,
Dicite, non roris sed pluvia hæc lacrimæ.

By Celia's arbour all the night
Hang, humid wreath, the lover's vow;
And haply, at the morning light,
My love shall twine thee round her brow.

Then, if upon her bosom bright
Some drops of dew shall fall from thee,
Tell her, they are not drops of night,
But tears of sorrow shed by me!

In the poem of Mr. Sheridan's, "Uncouth is this moss-covered grotto of stone," there is an idea very singularly coincident with this of Angerianus: —

And thou, stony grot, in thy arch may'st preserve
Some lingering drops of the night-fallen dew;
Let them fall on her bosom of snow, and they'll serve
As tears of my sorrow entrusted to you.

[2] *But to you, my burning heart, &c.*] The transition here is peculiarly delicate and impassioned; but the commentators have perplexed the sentiment by a variety of readings and conjectures.

[3] The description of this bower is so natural and animated, that we almost feel a degree of coolness and freshness while we peruse it. Longepierre has quoted from the first book of the Anthologia, the following epigram, as somewhat resembling this ode: —

Ερχεο και κατ' εμαν ιζευ πιτυν, ἁ το μελιχρον
Πεος μαλακους ηχει κεκλιμενα ζεφυρους.
Ηνιδε και κρουνισμα μελισταγες, ενθα μελισδαν
Ἡδυν ερημαιοις ὑπνον αγω καλαμοις.

Come, sit by the shadowy pine
That covers my sylvan retreat;
And see how the branches incline
The breathing of zephyr to meet.

See the fountain that, flowing, diffuses
Around me a glittering spray;
By its brink, as the traveller muses,
I soothe him to sleep with my lay.

[4] *Here recline you, gentle maid, &c.*] The Vatican MS. reads βαθυλλου, which renders the whole poem metaphorical. Some commentator suggests the reading of βαθυλλον, which makes a pun upon the name; a grace that Plato himself has condescended to in writing of his boy Αστης. See the epigram of this philosopher, which I quote on the twenty-second ode.

There is another epigram by this philosopher, preserved in Laertius, which turns upon the same word.

Αστηρ πριν μεν ελαμπες ενι ζωοισιν ἑωος
Νυν δε Θανων λαμπεις εσπερος εν φθιμενοις.

In life thou wert my morning star,
But now that death has stol'n thy light,
Alas! thou shinest dim and far,
Like the pale beam that weeps at night.

In the Veneres Blyenburgicæ, under the head of "Allusiones," we find a number of such frigid conceits upon names, selected from the poets of the middle ages.

[5] *Who, my girl, would pass it by?*
Surely neither you nor I.] The finish given to the picture by this simple exclamation τις αν ουν ὁων παρελθοι, is inimitable. Yet a French translator says on the passage, "This conclusion appeared to me too trifling after such a description, and I thought proper to add somewhat to the strength of the original."

[6] The poet appears, in this graceful allegory, to describe the softening influence which poetry holds over the mind, in making it peculiarly susceptible to the impressions of beauty. In the following epigram, however, by the philosopher Plato, (Diog. Laert. lib. 3.) the Muses are represented as disavowing the influence of Love.

Α Κυπρις Μουσαισι, κομασιαι, ταν Αφροδιταν
Τιματ', η τον Ερωτα ὑμιν εφοπλισομαι.
Αι Μουσαι ποτι Κυπριν, Αφες τα στομυλα ταυτα·
Ἡμιν ου πεταται τουτο το παιδαριον.

"Yield to my gentle power, Parnassian maids;"
Thus to the Muses spoke the Queen of Charms —
"Or Love shall flutter through your classic shades,
And make your grove the camp of Paphian arms!"
"No," said the virgins of the tuneful bower,
"We scorn thine own and all thy urchin's art;
Though Mars has trembled at the infant's power,
His shaft is pointless o'er a Muse's heart!"

There is a sonnet by Benedetto Guidi, the thought of which was suggested by this ode.

Scherzava dentro all' auree chiome Amore
Dell' alma donna della vita mia:
E tanta era il piacer ch' ei ne sentia,
Che non sapea, nè volea uscirne fore.
Quando ecco ivi annodar si sente il core,
Sì, che per forza ancor convien che stia:
Tai lacci alta beltate orditi avia
Del crespo crin, per farsi eterno onore.
Onde offre infin dal ciel degna mercede,
A chi scioglie il figliuol la bella dea
Da tanti nodi, in ch' ella stretto il vede.

And to celestial Beauty gave
The captive infant for her slave.
His mother comes, with many a toy,
To ransom her beloved boy;[1]
His mother sues, but all in vain,—
He ne'er will leave his chains again.
Even should they take his chains away,
The little captive still would stay.
"If this," he cries, "a bondage be,
Oh, who could wish for liberty?"

ODE XXI.[2]

OBSERVE when mother earth is dry,
She drinks the droppings of the sky,
And then the dewy cordial gives
To ev'ry thirsty plant that lives.

Ma ei vinto a due occhi l' arme cede:
Et t' affatichi indarno, Citerea;
Che s' altri 'l scioglie, egli a legar si riede.
Love, wandering through the golden maze
Of my beloved's hair,
Found, at each step, such sweet delays,
That rapt he linger'd there.
And how, indeed, was Love to fly,
Or how his freedom find,
When every ringlet was a tie,
A chain, by Beauty twin'd.
In vain to seek her boy's release
Comes Venus from above:
Fond mother, let thy efforts cease,
Love's now the slave of Love.
And, should we loose his golden chain,
The prisoner would return again!

[1] *His mother comes, with many a toy, To ransom her beloved boy; &c.*] In the first idyl of Moschus, Venus thus proclaims the reward for her fugitive child:—

Ὁ μαυτας γεραος ἐξει,
Μισθος τοι, το φιλαμα το Κυπριδος· ην δ' αγαγης νιν
Ου γυμνον το φιλαμεα, τυ δ', ω ξενε, και πλεον ἐξεις.

On him, who the haunts of my Cupid can show,
A kiss of the tenderest stamp I'll bestow;
But he, who can bring back the urchin in chains,
Shall receive even something more sweet for his pains.

Subjoined to this ode, we find in the Vatican MS. the following lines, which appear to me to boast as little sense as metre, and which are most probably the interpolation of the transcriber:—

Ἡδυμελης Ανακρεων
Ἡδυμελης δε Σαπφω
Πινδαριζον το δε μοι μελος
Συγκεφασας τις εγχεοι
Τα τρια ταυτα μοι δοκει
Και Διονυσος εισελθων
Και Παφιη παραχρηος
Και αυτος Ερως ων επιειν.

[2] Those critics who have endeavoured to throw the chains of precision over the spirit of this beautiful trifle, require too much from Anacreontic philosophy. Among others, Gail very sapiently thinks that the poet uses the epithet μελαινη, because black earth absorbs moisture more quickly than any other; and accordingly he indulges us with an experimental disquisition on the subject.—See Gail's notes.

One of the Capilupi has imitated this ode, in an epitaph on a drunkard:—

Dum vixi sine fine bibi, sic imbrifer arcus
Sic tellus pluvias sole perusta bibit.
Sic bibit assiduè fontes et flumina Pontus,
Sic semper sitiens Sol maris haurit aquas.
Ne te igitur jactes plus me, Silene, bibisse;
Et mihi da victas tu quoque, Bacche, manus.

HIPPOLYTUS CAPILUPUS.

While life was mine, the little hour
In drinking still unvaried flew;
I drank as earth imbibes the shower,
Or as the rainbow drinks the dew;
As ocean quaffs the rivers up,
Or flushing sun inhales the sea:
Silenus trembled at my cup,
And Bacchus was outdone by me!

I cannot omit citing those remarkable lines of Shakspeare, where the thoughts of the ode before us are preserved with such striking similitude:

The vapours, which at evening weep,
Are beverage to the swelling deep;
And when the rosy sun appears,
He drinks the ocean's misty tears.
The moon too quaffs her paly stream
Of lustre, from the solar beam.
Then, hence with all your sober thinking!
Since Nature's holy law is drinking;
I'll make the laws of nature mine,
And pledge the universe in wine.

ODE XXII.

THE Phrygian rock, that braves the storm,
Was once a weeping matron's form;[3]
And Progue, hapless, frantic maid,
Is now a swallow in the shade.

I'll example you with thievery.
The sun's a thief, and with his great attraction
Robs the vast sea. The moon's an arrant thief,
And her pale fire she snatches from the sun.
The sea's a thief, whose liquid surge resolves
The mounds into salt tears. The earth's a thief,
That feeds, and breeds by a composture stol'n
From general excrements.

Timon of Athens, act iv. sc. 3.

[3] —— *a weeping matron's form;*] Niobe.—Ogilvie, in his Essay on the Lyric Poetry of the Ancients, in remarking upon the Odes of Anacreon, says, "In some of his pieces there is exuberance and even wildness of imagination; in that particularly, which is addressed to a young girl, where he wishes alternately to be transformed to a mirror, a coat, a stream, a bracelet, and a pair of shoes, for the different purposes which he recites: this is mere sport and wantonness."

It is the wantonness, however, of a very graceful Muse; "ludit amabiliter." The compliment of this ode is exquisitely delicate, and so singular for the period in which Anacreon lived, when the scale of love had not yet been graduated into

Oh! that a mirror's form were mine,
That I might catch that smile divine;
And like my own fond fancy be,
Reflecting thee, and only thee;
Or could I be the robe which holds
That graceful form within its folds;
Or, turn'd into a fountain, lave
Thy beauties in my circling wave.
Would I were perfume for thy hair,
To breathe my soul in fragrance there;
Or, better still, the zone, that lies
Close to thy breast, and feels its sighs![1]
Or ev'n those envious pearls that show
So faintly round that neck of snow—
Yes, I would be a happy gem,
Like them to hang, to fade like them.
What more would thy Anacreon be?
Oh, any thing that touches thee;

Nay, sandals for those airy feet—
Ev'n to be trod by them were sweet![2]

ODE XXIII.[3]

I OFTEN wish this languid lyre,
This warbler of my soul's desire,
Could raise the breath of song sublime,
To men of fame, in former time.
But when the soaring theme I try,
Along the chords my numbers die,
And whisper, with dissolving tone,
"Our sighs are given to love alone!"
Indignant at the feeble lay,
I tore the panting chords away,
Attun'd them to a nobler swell,
And struck again the breathing shell;

all its little progressive refinements, that if we were inclined to question the authenticity of the poem, we should find a much more plausible argument in the features of modern gallantry which it bears, than in any of those fastidious conjectures upon which some commentators have presumed so far. Degen thinks it spurious, and De Pauw pronounces it to be miserable. Longepierre and Barnes refer us to several imitations of this ode, from which I shall only select the following epigram of Dionysius:—

Ειθ' ανεμος γενομην, συ δε γε στειχουσα παρ' αυγας,
Στηθεα γυμνωσαις, και με πνεοντα λαβοις.
Ειθε ῥοδον γενοιμην ὑποτροφυεον, οφρα με χερσιν
Αραμενη, κομισαις στεθεσι χιονεοις.
Ειθε κρινον γενοιμην λευκοχροον, οφρα με χερσιν
Αραμενη, μαλλον σης χροτιης κορεσης.

I wish I could like zephyr steal
To wanton o'er thy mazy vest;
And thou wouldst ope thy bosom-veil,
And take me panting to thy breast!

I wish I might a rose-bud grow,
And thou wouldst cull me from the bower,
To place me on that breast of snow,
Where I should bloom, a wintry flower.

I wish I were the lily's leaf,
To fade upon that bosom warm,
Content to wither, pale and brief,
The trophy of thy fairer form!

I may add, that Plato has expressed as fanciful a wish in a distich preserved by Laertius:

Αστερας εισαθρεις, Αστηρ εμος. ειθε γενοιμην
Ουρανος, ὡς πολλοις ομμασιν εις σε βλεπω.

TO STELLA.

Why dost thou gaze upon the sky?
Oh! that I were that spangled sphere,
And every star should be an eye,
To wonder on thy beauties here!

Apuleius quotes this epigram of the divine philosopher, to justify himself for his verses on Critias and Charinus. See his Apology, where he also adduces the example of Anacreon; "Fecere tamen et alii talia, et si vos ignoratis, apud Græcos Teius quidam, &c. &c."

[1] *Or, better still, the zone, that lies,*
Close to thy breast, and feels its sighs!] This ταινια was a riband, or band, called by the Romans fascia and strophium, which the women wore for the purpose of restraining the exuberance of the bosom. Vide Polluc. Onomast. Thus Martial:—

Fasciâ crescentes dominæ compesce papillas.

The women of Greece not only wore this zone, but condemned themselves to fasting, and made use of certain drugs and powders for the same purpose. To these expedients they were compelled, in consequence of their inelegant fashion of compressing the waist into a very narrow compass, which necessarily caused an excessive tumidity in the bosom. See Dioscorides, lib. v.

[2] *Nay, sandals for those airy feet—*
Ev'n to be trod by them were sweet!] The sophist Philostratus, in one of his love-letters, has borrowed this thought; ω αδυτοι ποδες, ω καλλος ελευθερος, ω τριπυδαιμων εγω και μακαριος εαν πατησητε με.—"Oh lovely feet! oh excellent beauty! oh! thrice happy and blessed should I be, if you would but tread on me!" In Shakspeare, Romeo desires to be a glove:—

Oh! that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might kiss that cheek!

And, in his Passionate Pilgrim, we meet with an idea somewhat like that of the thirteenth line:—

He, spying her, bounc'd in, where as he stood,
"O Jove!" quoth she, "why was not I a flood?"

In Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy, that whimsical farrago of "all such reading as was never read," we find a translation of this ode made before 1632.—"Englished by Mr. B. Holiday, in his Technog. act i. scene 7."

[3] According to the order in which the odes are usually placed, this (Θελω λεγειν Ατρειδας) forms the first of the series; and is thought to be peculiarly designed as an introduction to the rest. It however characterises the genius of the Teian but very inadequately, as wine, the burden of his lays, is not even mentioned in it:

—— cum multo Venerem confundere mero
Præcepit Lyrici Teia Musa senis. OVID.

The twenty-sixth Ode, Ω μεν λεγειται Θητος, might, with just as much propriety, be placed at the head of his songs.

We find the sentiment of the ode before us expressed by Bion with much simplicity in his fourth idyl. The above translation is, perhaps, too paraphrastical; but the ode has been so frequently translated, that I could not otherwise avoid triteness and repetition.

In all the glow of epic fire,[1]
To Hercules I wake the lyre.[2]
But still its fainting sighs repeat,
" The tale of love alone is sweet!"
Then fare thee well, seductive dream,
That mad'st me follow Glory's theme;
For thou my lyre, and thou my heart,
Shall never more in spirit part;
And all that one has felt so well
The other shall as sweetly tell!

ODE XXIV.[3]

To all that breathe the air of heaven,
Some boon of strength has Nature given.
In forming the majestic bull,
She fenced with wreathed horns his skull;
A hoof of strength she lent the steed,
And wing'd the timorous hare with speed.
She gave the lion fangs of terror,
And, o'er the ocean's crystal mirror,
Taught the unnumber'd scaly throng
To trace their liquid path along;
While for the umbrage of the grove,
She plum'd the warbling world of love.

To man she gave, in that proud hour,
The boon of intellectual power.[4]
Then, what, oh woman, what, for thee,
Was left in Nature's treasury?
She gave thee beauty—mightier far
Than all the pomp and power of war.[5]
Nor steel, nor fire itself hath power
Like woman in her conquering hour.
Be thou but fair, mankind adore thee,
Smile, and a world is weak before thee![6]

ODE XXV.[7]

Once in each revolving year,
Gentle bird! we find thee here.
When Nature wears her summer-vest,
Thou com'st to weave thy simple nest;
But when the chilling winter lowers,
Again thou seek'st the genial bowers
Of Memphis, or the shores of Nile,
Where sunny hours for ever smile.
And thus thy pinion rests and roves,—
Alas! unlike the swarm of Loves,
That brood within this hapless breast,
And never, never change their nest![8]

[1] *In all the glow of epic fire,*
To Hercules I wake the lyre.] Madame Dacier generally translates λυρη into a lute, which I believe is inaccurate. " D'expliquer la lyre des anciens (says M. Sorel) par un luth, c'est ignorer la différence qu'il y a entre ces deux instrumens de musique." — *Bibliothèque Françoise.*

[2] *But still its fainting sighs repeat,*
" *The tale of love alone is sweet!* "] The word αντεφωνει in the original, may imply that kind of musical dialogue practised by the ancients, in which the lyre was made to respond to the questions proposed by the singer. This was a method which Sappho used, as we are told by Hermogenes; " *ὁταν την λυραν ερωτα Σαπφω, και ὁταν αυτη αποκρινηται.*" — Περι Ιδεων, τομ. δευτ.

[3] Henry Stephen has imitated the idea of this ode in the following lines of one of his poems:—

Provida dat cunctis Natura animantibus arma,
Et sua fœmineum possidet arma genus,
Ungulâque ut defendit equum, atque ut cornua taurum,
Armata est formâ fœmina pulchra suâ.

And the same thought occurs in those lines, spoken by Corisca in Pastor Fido:

Cosi noi la bellezza
Ch' è vertù nostra cosi propria, come
La forza del leone,
E l'ingegno de l' huomo.
The lion boasts his savage powers,
And lordly man his strength of mind;
But beauty's charm is solely ours,
Peculiar boon, by Heav'n assign'd.

" An elegant explication of the beauties of this ode (says Degen) may be found in Grimm an den Anmerk. über einige Oden des Anakr."

[4] *To man she gave, in that proud hour,*
The boon of intellectual power.] In my first attempt to translate this ode, I had interpreted φρονημα, with Baxter and Barnes, as implying courage and military virtue; but I do not think that the gallantry of the idea suffers by the import which I have now given to it. For, why need we consider this possession of wisdom as exclusive? and in truth, as the design of Anacreon is to estimate the treasure of beauty, above all the rest which Nature has distributed, it is perhaps even refining upon the delicacy of the compliment, to prefer the radiance of female charms to the cold illumination of wisdom and prudence; and to think that women's eyes are

——— the books, the academies,
From whence doth spring the true Promethean fire.

[5] *She gave thee beauty—mightier far*
Than all the pomp and power of war.] Thus Achilles Tatius: —*καλλος οξυτερον τιτρωσκει βελους, και δια των οφθαλμων εις την ψυχην καταρρει. Οφθαλμος γαρ ὁδος ερωτικω τραυματι.* " Beauty wounds more swiftly than the arrow, and passes through the eye to the very soul; for the eye is the inlet to the wounds of love."

[6] *Be thou but fair, mankind adore thee,*
Smile, and a world is weak before thee!] Longepierre's remark here is ingenious:—" The Romans," says he, " were so convinced of the power of beauty, that they used a word implying strength in the place of the epithet beautiful. Thus Plautus, act 2. scene 2. Bacchid.

Sed Bacchis etiam fortis tibi visa.

' *Fortis, id est formosa,*' say Servius and Nonius."

[7] We have here another ode addressed to the swallow. Alberti has imitated both in one poem, beginning

Perch' io pianga al tuo canto,
Rondinella importuna, &c.

[8] *Alas! unlike the swarm of Loves,*
That brood within this hapless breast,
And never, never change their nest!] Thus Love is represented as a bird, in an epigram cited by Longepierre from the Anthologia:—

Still every year, and all the year,
They fix their fated dwelling here;
And some their infant plumage try,
And on a tender winglet fly;
While in the shell, impregn'd with fires,
Still lurk a thousand more desires;
Some from their tiny prisons peeping,
And some in formless embryo sleeping.
Thus peopled, like the vernal groves,
My breast resounds with warbling Loves;
One urchin imps the other's feather,
Then twin-desires they wing together,
And fast as they thus take their flight,
Still other urchins spring to light.
But is there then no kindly art,
To chase these Cupids from my heart;
Ah, no! I fear, in sadness fear,
They will for ever nestle here!

ODE XXVI.[1]

THY harp may sing of Troy's alarms,
Or tell the tale of Theban arms;
With other wars my song shall burn,
For other wounds my harp shall mourn.
'Twas not the crested warrior's dart,
That drank the current of my heart;

Αιει μοι δυνει μεν εν ουασιν ηχος ερωτος,
Ομμα δε σιγα ποθοις το γλυκυ δακρυ φερει.
Ουδ' ἡ νυξ, ου φεγγος επoιμισιν, αλλ' ὑπο φιλτρων
Ηδη που κραδιη γνωστος ενεστι τυπος.
Ω πτανοι, μη και σοτ' εφιπτασθαι μεν ερατες
Οιδατ', αποπτηναι δ' ουθ' ὁσον ισχυετε.

'Tis Love that murmurs in my breast,
And makes me shed the secret tear;
Nor day nor night my soul hath rest,
For night and day his voice I hear.
A wound within my heart I find,
And oh! 'tis plain where Love has been;
For still he leaves a wound behind,
Such as within my heart is seen.
Oh, bird of Love! with song so drear,
Make not my soul the nest of pain;
But, let the wing which brought thee here,
In pity waft thee hence again!

[1] "The German poet Uz has imitated this ode. Compare also Weisse Scherz. Lieder, lib. iii., der Soldat." Gail, Degen.

[2] *No—'twas from eyes of liquid blue*
A host of quiver'd Cupids flew;] Longepierre has quoted part of an epigram from the seventh book of the Anthologia, which has a fancy something like this.

Ου με λεληθας,
Τοξοτα, Ζηνοφιλας ομμασι κρυπτομενος.

Archer Love! though slily creeping,
Well I know where thou dost lie;
I saw thee through the curtain peeping,
That fringes Zenophelia's eye.

The poets abound with conceits on the archery of the eyes, but few have turned the thought so naturally as Anacreon. Ronsard gives to the eyes of his mistress "un petit camp d'amours."

Nor naval arms, nor mailed steed,
Have made this vanquish'd bosom bleed;
No—'twas from eyes of liquid blue,
A host of quiver'd Cupids flew;
And now my heart all bleeding lies
Beneath that army of the eyes!

ODE XXVII.[3]

WE read the flying courser's name
Upon his side, in marks of flame;
And, by their turban'd brows alone,
The warriors of the East are known.
But in the lover's glowing eyes,
The inlet to his bosom lies;[4]
Through them we see the small faint mark,
Where Love has dropp'd his burning spark!

ODE XXVIII.[5]

As, by his Lemnian forge's flame,
The husband of the Paphian dame
Moulded the glowing steel, to form
Arrows for Cupid, thrilling warm;
And Venus, as he plied his art,
Shed honey round each new-made dart,

[3] This ode forms a part of the preceding in the Vatican MS., but I have conformed to the editions in translating them separately.

"Compare with this (says Degen) the poem of Ramler Wahrzeichen der Liebe, in Lyr. Blumenlese, lib. iv. p. 313."

[4] *But in the lover's glowing eyes,*
The inlet to his bosom lies;] "We cannot see into the heart," says Madame Dacier. But the lover answers—

Il cor ne gli occhi et ne la fronte ho scritto.

M. La Fosse has given the following lines, as enlarging on the thought of Anacreon:—

Lorsque je vois un amant,
Il cache en vain son tourment,
A le trahir tout conspire,
Sa langueur, son embarras,
Tout ce qu'il peut faire ou dire,
Même ce qu'il ne dit pas.

In vain the lover tries to veil
The flame that in his bosom lies;
His cheeks' confusion tells the tale,
We read it in his languid eyes:
And while his words the heart betray,
His silence speaks ev'n more than they.

[5] This ode is referred to by La Mothe le Vayer, who, I believe, was the author of that curious little work, called "Hexameron Rustique." He makes use of this, as well as the thirty-fifth, in his ingenious but indelicate explanation of Homer's Cave of the Nymphs.—Journée Quatrième.

While Love, at hand, to finish all,
Tipp'd every arrow's point with gall; [1]
It chanc'd the Lord of Battles came
To visit that deep cave of flame.
'Twas from the ranks of war he rush'd
His spear with many a life-drop blush'd;
He saw the fiery darts, and smil'd
Contemptuous at the archer-child.
"What!" said the urchin, "dost thou smile?
Here, hold this little dart awhile,
And thou wilt find, though swift of flight,
My bolts are not so feathery light."

Mars took the shaft — and, oh, thy look,
Sweet Venus, when the shaft he took! —
Sighing, he felt the urchin's art,
And cried, in agony of heart,
"It is not light — I sink with pain!
Take — take thy arrow back again."
"No," said the child, "it must not be;
That little dart was made for thee!"

[1] *While Love, at hand, to finish all,*
Tipp'd every arrow's point with gall;] Thus Claudian: —

Labuntur gemini fontes, hic dulcis, amarus
Alter, et infusis corrumpit mella venenis,
Unde Cupidineas armavit fama sagittas.

In Cyprus' isle two rippling fountains fall,
And one with honey flows, and one with gall;
In these, if we may take the tale from fame,
The son of Venus dips his darts of flame.

See Alciatus, emblem 91., on the close connection which subsists between sweets and bitters. "Apes ideo pungunt (says Petronius), quia ubi dulce, ibi et acidum invenies."

The allegorical description of Cupid's employment, in Horace, may vie with this before us in fancy, though not in delicacy: —

——— ferus et Cupido
Semper ardentes acuens sagittas
Cote cruentâ.

And Cupid, sharpening all his fiery darts,
Upon a whetstone stain'd with blood of hearts.

Secundus has borrowed this, but has somewhat softened the image by the omission of the epithet "cruentâ."

Fallor an ardentes acuebat cote sagittas? Eleg. 1.

[2] *Yes — loving is a painful thrill,*
And not to love more painful still; &c.] The following Anacreontic, addressed by Menage to Daniel Huet, enforces, with much grace, the "necessity of loving:" —

Περι του δειν φιλησαι.
Προς Πετρον Δανιηλα Ὑεττον.

Μεγα θαυμα των αοιδων,
Χαριτων θαλος, Ὑεττε,
Φιλεωμεν, ω ἑταιρε
Φιλεησαν οἱ σοφισται.
Φιλεησε σεμνος ανηρ,
Το τεκνον του Σωφρονισκου,
Σοφιης πατηρ απασης.
Τι δ' ανευ γενοιτ' Ερωτος;
Ακονη μεν εστι ψυχης.*
Πτερυγεσσιν εις Ολυμπον

* This line is borrowed from an epigram by Alpheus of Mitylene which Menage, I think, says somewhere he was himself the first to produce to the world: —

Ψυχης εστιν Ερως ακονη.

ODE XXIX.

Yes — loving is a painful thrill,
And not to love more painful still; [2]
But oh, it is the worst of pain,
To love and not be lov'd again!
Affection now has fled from earth,
Nor fire of genius, noble birth,
Nor heavenly virtue, can beguile
From beauty's cheek one favouring smile.
Gold is the woman's only theme,
Gold is the woman's only dream.
Oh! never be that wretch forgiven —
Forgive him not, indignant heaven!
Whose grovelling eyes could first adore,
Whose heart could pant for sordid ore.
Since that devoted thirst began,
Man has forgot to feel for man;
The pulse of social life is dead,
And all its fonder feelings fled!
War too has sullied Nature's charms,
For gold provokes the world to arms:

Κατακειμενους αναιρει.
Βραδεας τετηγμενοισι
Βελεεσι εξαγειρει.
Πυρι λαμπαδος φαεινω
Ρυπαρωτερους καθαιρει.
Φιλεωμεν ουν, Ὑεττε,
Φιλεωμεν ω ἑταιρε.
Αδικως δε λοιδορουντι
Ἁγιους ερωτας ἡμων
Κακον ευξομαι το μουνον,
Ἱνα μη δυναιτ' εκεινος
Φιλεειν τε και φιλεισθαι.

Thou! of tuneful bards the first,
Thou! by all the Graces nurst;
Friend! each other friend above,
Come with me, and learn to love.
Loving is a simple lore,
Graver men have learn'd before;
Nay, the boast of former ages,
Wisest of the wisest sages,
Sophroniscus' prudent son,
Was by love's illusion won.
Oh! how heavy life would move,
If we knew not how to love!
Love's a whetstone to the mind;
Thus 'tis pointed, thus refined.
When the soul dejected lies,
Love can waft it to the skies;
When in languor sleeps the heart,
Love can wake it with his dart;
When the mind is dull and dark,
Love can light it with his spark!
Come, oh! come then, let us haste
All the bliss of love to taste;
Let us love both night and day,
Let us love our lives away!
And when hearts, from loving free,
(If indeed such hearts there be,)
Frown upon our gentle flame,
And the sweet delusion blame;
This shall be my only curse,
(Could I, could I wish them worse?)
May they ne'er the rapture prove,
Of the smile from lips we love!

And oh! the worst of all its arts,
It rends asunder loving hearts.

ODE XXX.[1]

'Twas in a mocking dream of night—
I fancied I had wings as light
As a young bird's, and flew as fleet;
While Love, around whose beauteous feet,
I knew not why, hung chains of lead,
Pursued me, as I trembling fled;
And, strange to say, as swift as thought,
Spite of my pinions, I was caught!
What does the wanton Fancy mean
By such a strange, illusive scene?
I fear she whispers to my breast,
That you, sweet maid, have stol'n its rest;
That though my fancy, for a while,
Hath hung on many a woman's smile,
I soon dissolv'd each passing vow,
And ne'er was caught by love till now!

ODE XXXI.[2]

Arm'd with hyacinthine rod,
(Arms enough for such a god,)
Cupid bade me wing my pace,
And try with him the rapid race.
O'er many a torrent, wild and deep,
By tangled brake and pendent steep,
With weary foot I panting flew,
Till my brow dropp'd with chilly dew.[3]
And now my soul, exhausted, dying,
To my lip was faintly flying;[4]
And now I thought the spark had fled,
When Cupid hover'd o'er my head,
And fanning light his breezy pinion,
Rescued my soul from death's dominion;[5]
Then said, in accents half-reproving,
"Why hast thou been a foe to loving?"

ODE XXXII.[6]

Strew me a fragrant bed of leaves,
Where lotus with the myrtle weaves;

[1] Barnes imagines from this allegory, that our poet married very late in life. But I see nothing in the ode which alludes to matrimony, except it be the lead upon the feet of Cupid; and I agree in the opinion of Madame Dacier, in her life of the poet, that he was always too fond of pleasure to marry.

[2] The design of this little fiction is to intimate, that much greater pain attends insensibility than can ever result from the tenderest impressions of love. Longepierre has quoted an ancient epigram which bears some similitude to this ode:—

Lecto compositus, vix prima silentia noctis
Carpebam, et somno lumina victa dabam;
Cum me sævus Amor prensum, sursumque capillis
Excitat, et lacerum pervigilare jubet.
Tu famulus meus, inquit, ames cum mille puellas,
Solus Io, solus, dure jacere potes?
Exilio et pedibus nudis, tunicaque soluta,
Omne iter impedio, nullum iter expedio.
Nunc propero, nunc ire piget; rursumque redire
Pœnitet; et pudor est stare via media.
Ecce tacent voces hominum, strepitusque ferarum,
Et volucrum cantus, turbaque fida canum.
Solus ego ex cunctis paveo somnumque torumque,
Et sequor imperium, sæve Cupido, tuum.
Upon my couch I lay, at night profound,
My languid eyes in magic slumber bound,
When Cupid came and snatch'd me from my bed,
And forc'd me many a weary way to tread.
"What! (said the god) shall you, whose vows are known
Who love so many nymphs, thus sleep alone?"
I rise and follow; all the night I stray,
Unshelter'd, trembling, doubtful of my way;
Tracing with naked foot the painful track,
Loth to proceed, yet fearful to go back.
Yes, at that hour, when Nature seems interr'd,
Nor warbling birds, nor lowing flocks are heard,
I, I alone, a fugitive from rest,
Passion my guide, and madness in my breast,
Wander the world around, unknowing where,
The slave of love, the victim of despair!

[3] *Till my brow dropp'd with chilly dew.*] I have followed those who read τειρεν ἱδρως for πειρεν ὑδρος; the former is partly authorised by the MS. which reads πειρεν ἱδρως.

[4] *And now my soul, exhausted, dying,*
To my lip was faintly flying; &c.] In the original, he says, his heart flew to his nose; but our manner more naturally transfers it to the lips. Such is the effect that Plato tells us he felt from a kiss, in a distich quoted by Aulus Gellius:—

Την ψυχην, Αγαθωνα φιλων, επι χειλεσιν εσχον.
Ηλθε γαρ ἡ τλημων ὡς διαβησομενη.
Whene'er thy nectar'd kiss I sip,
And drink thy breath, in trance divine,
My soul then flutters to my lip,
Ready to fly and mix with thine.

Aulus Gellius subjoins a paraphrase of this epigram, in which we find a number of those *mignardises* of expression, which mark the effemination of the Latin language.

[5] *And fanning light his breezy pinion,*
Rescued my soul from death's dominion;] "The facility with which Cupid recovers him, signifies that the sweets of love make us easily forget any solicitudes which he may occasion."—*La Fosse.*

[6] We here have the poet, in his true attributes, reclining upon myrtles, with Cupid for his cup-bearer. Some interpreters have ruined the picture by making Ερως the name of his slave. None but Love should fill the goblet of Anacreon. Sappho, in one of her fragments, has assigned this office to Venus. Ελθε, Κυπρι, χρυσειαισιν εν κυλικεσσιν ἁβροις συμμεμιγμενον θαλιαισι νεκταρ οινοχουσα τουτοισι τοις ἑταιροις εμοις γε και σοις.

Which may be thus paraphrased:—

Hither, Venus, queen of kisses,
This shall be the night of blisses;
This the night, to friendship dear,
Thou shalt be our Hebe here.
Fill the golden brimmer high,
Let it sparkle like thine eye;

And while in luxury's dream I sink,
Let me the balm of Bacchus drink!
In this sweet hour of revelry
Young Love shall my attendant be —
Drest for the task, with tunic round
His snowy neck and shoulders bound,
Himself shall hover by my side,
And minister the racy tide!

Oh, swift as wheels that kindling roll,
Our life is hurrying to the goal:
A scanty dust, to feed the wind,
Is all the trace 'twill leave behind.
Then wherefore waste the rose's bloom
Upon the cold, insensate tomb?
Can flowery breeze, or odour's breath,
Affect the still, cold sense of death?
Oh no; I ask no balm to steep
With fragrant tears my bed of sleep:
But now, while every pulse is glowing,
Now let me breathe the balsam flowing;
Now let the rose, with blush of fire,
Upon my brow in sweets expire;
And bring the nymph whose eye hath power
To brighten even death's cold hour.
Yes, Cupid! ere my shade retires,
To join the blest elysian choir,
With wine, and love, and social cheer,
I'll make my own elysium here!

ODE XXXIII.[1]

'Twas noon of night, when round the pole
The sullen Bear is seen to roll;
And mortals, wearied with the day,
Are slumbering all their cares away:
An infant, at that dreary hour,
Came weeping to my silent bower,
And wak'd me with a piteous prayer,
To shield him from the midnight air.
"And who art thou," I waking cry,
"That bid'st my blissful visions fly?"[2]

"Ah, gentle sire!" the infant said,
"In pity take me to thy shed;
Nor fear deceit: a lonely child
I wander o'er the gloomy wild.
Chill drops the rain, and not a ray
Illumes the drear and misty way!"

I heard the baby's tale of woe;
I heard the bitter night-winds blow;
And sighing for his piteous fate,
I trimm'd my lamp and op'd the gate.
'Twas Love! the little wand'ring sprite,[3]
His pinion sparkled through the night.
I knew him by his bow and dart;
I knew him by my fluttering heart.
Fondly I take him in, and raise
The dying embers' cheering blaze;
Press from his dank and clinging hair
The crystals of the freezing air,
And in my hand and bosom hold
His little fingers thrilling cold.

And now the embers' genial ray
Had warm'd his anxious fears away;
"I pray thee," said the wanton child,
(My bosom trembled as he smil'd,)
"I pray thee let me try my bow,
For through the rain I've wander'd so,
That much I fear, the midnight shower
Has injur'd its elastic power."
The fatal bow the urchin drew;
Swift from the string the arrow flew;
As swiftly flew as glancing flame,
And to my inmost spirit came!
"Fare thee well," I heard him say,
As laughing wild he wing'd away;
"Fare thee well, for now I know
The rain has not relax'd my bow;
It still can send a thrilling dart,
As thou shalt own with all thy heart!"

Bid the rosy current gush,
Let it mantle like thy blush.
Goddess, hast thou e'er above
Seen a feast so rich in love?
Not a soul that is not mine!
Not a soul that is not thine!

"Compare with this ode (says the German commentator) the beautiful poem in Ramler's Lyr. Blumenlese, lib. iv. p. 296., 'Amor als Diener.'"

[1] M. Bernard, the author of L'Art d'aimer, has written a ballet called "Les Surprises de l'Amour," in which the subject of the third entrée is Anacreon, and the story of this ode suggests one of the scenes. — Œuvres de Bernard, Anac. scene 4th.

The German annotator refers us here to an imitation by Uz, lib. iii., "Amor und sein Bruder;" and a poem of Kleist, "die Heilung." La Fontaine has translated, or rather imitated, this ode.

[2] "*And who art thou,*" *I waking cry,*
"*That bid'st my blissful visions fly?*"] Anacreon appears to have been a voluptuary even in dreaming, by the lively regret which he expresses at being disturbed from his visionary enjoyments. See the odes x. and xxxvii.

[3] '*Twas Love! the little wand'ring sprite, &c.*] See the beautiful description of Cupid, by Moschus, in his first idyl.

ODE XXXIV.[1]

OH thou, of all creation blest,
Sweet insect, that delight'st to rest
Upon the wild wood's leafy tops,
To drink the dew that morning drops,
And chirp thy song with such a glee,[2]
That happiest kings may envy thee.
Whatever decks the velvet field,
Whate'er the circling seasons yield,
Whatever buds, whatever blows,
For thee it buds, for thee it grows.
Nor yet art thou the peasant's fear,
To him thy friendly notes are dear;
For thou art mild as matin dew;
And still, when summer's flowery hue
Begins to paint the bloomy plain,
We hear thy sweet prophetic strain;
Thy sweet prophetic strain we hear,
And bless the notes and thee revere!
The Muses love thy shrilly tone;[3]
Apollo calls thee all his own;
'Twas he who gave that voice to thee,
'Tis he who tunes thy minstrelsy.

Unworn by age's dim decline,
The fadeless blooms of youth are thine.
Melodious insect, child of earth,[4]
In wisdom mirthful, wise in mirth;
Exempt from every weak decay,
That withers vulgar frames away;
With not a drop of blood to stain
The current of thy purer vein;
So blest an age is pass'd by thee,
Thou seem'st—a little deity!

ODE XXXV.[5]

CUPID once upon a bed
Of roses laid his weary head;
Luckless urchin, not to see
Within the leaves a slumbering bee;

Αρκει τεττιγας μεθυσαι δροσος, αλλα πιοντες
Ασιδειν κυκνων εισι γεγωνοτεροι.
In dew, that drops from morning's wings,
The gay Cicada sipping floats;
And, drunk with dew, his matin sings
Sweeter than any cygnet's notes.

[1] In a Latin ode addressed to the grasshopper, Rapin has preserved some of the thoughts of our author:—

O quæ virenti graminis in toro,
Cicada, blande sidis, et herbidos
Saltus oberras, otiosos
Ingeniosa ciere cantus.
Seu forte adultis floribus incubas,
Cœli caducis ebria fletibus, &c.

Oh thou, that on the grassy bed
Which Nature's vernal hand has spread,
Reclinest soft, and tun'st thy song,
The dewy herbs and leaves among!
Whether thou ly'st on springing flowers,
Drunk with the balmy morning-showers,
Or, &c.

See what Licetus says about grasshoppers, cap. 93. and 185.

[2] *And chirp thy song with such a glee, &c.*] "Some authors have affirmed (says Madame Dacier), that it is only male grasshoppers which sing, and that the females are silent; and on this circumstance is founded a bon-mot of Xenarchus, the comic poet, who says ειτ' εισιν οι τεττιγες ουκ ευδαιμονες, ων ταις γυναιξιν ουδ' ότι ουν φωνης ενι; 'are not the grasshoppers happy in having dumb wives?'" This note is originally Henry Stephen's; but I chose rather to make a lady my authority for it.

[3] *The Muses love thy shrilly tone; &c.*] Phile, de Animal. Proprietat. calls this insect Μουσαις φιλος, the darling of the Muses; and Μουσων ορνιν, the bird of the Muses; and we find Plato compared for his eloquence to the grasshopper, in the following punning lines of Timon, preserved by Diogenes Laertius:—

Των παντων δ' ηγειτο πλατυστατος, αλλ' αγοραητης
Ηδυεπης τεττιξιν ισογραφος, οι Φ' Ἑκαδημου
Δενδρει εφιζομενοι οπα λειριοεσσαν ιεισι.

This last line is borrowed from Homer's Iliad, γ, where there occurs the very same simile.

[4] *Melodious insect, child of earth,*] Longepierre has quoted the two first lines of an epigram of Antipater, from the first book of the Anthologia, where he prefers the grasshopper to the swan:

[5] Theocritus has imitated this beautiful ode in his nineteenth idyl; but is very inferior, I think, to his original, in delicacy of point and naïveté of expression. Spenser, in one of his smaller compositions, has sported more diffusely on the same subject. The poem to which I allude, begins thus:—

Upon a day, as Love lay sweetly slumbering
All in his mother's lap;
A gentle bee, with his loud trumpet murmuring,
About him flew by hap, &c. &c.

In Almeloveen's collection of epigrams, there is one by Luxorius, correspondent somewhat with the turn of Anacreon, where Love complains to his mother of being wounded by a rose.

The ode before us is the very flower of simplicity. The infantine complainings of the little god, and the natural and impressive reflections which they draw from Venus, are beauties of inimitable grace. I may be pardoned, perhaps, for introducing here another of Menage's Anacreontics, not for its similitude to the subject of this ode, but for some faint traces of the same natural simplicity, which it appears to me to have preserved:—

Ερως ποτ' εν χορειαις
Των παρθενων αδοντων,
Την μοι φιλην Κορινναν,
Ως ειδεν, ως προς αυτην
Προσιδραμε· τραχηλω
Διδυμας τε χειρας απτων
Φιλει με, μητις, ειπε.
Καλουμενη Κορινναι
Μητις, ερυθριαζει,
Ως παρθενος μεν ουσα.
Κ' αυτος δε δυσχεραινων,
Ως ομμασι πλανηθεις,
Ερως ερυθριαζει.
Εγω, δε οι παρασταις,

The bee awak'd — with anger wild
The bee awak'd, and stung the child.
Loud and piteous are his cries;
To Venus quick he runs, he flies;
"Oh mother! — I am wounded through —
I die with pain — in sooth I do!
Stung by some little angry thing,
Some serpent on a tiny wing —
A bee it was — for once, I know,
I heard a rustic call it so."
Thus he spoke, and she the while
Heard him with a soothing smile;
Then said, "My infant, if so much
Thou feel the little wild-bee's touch,
How must the heart, ah, Cupid! be,
The hapless heart that's stung by thee!"

ODE XXXVI.[1]

If hoarded gold possess'd the power
To lengthen life's too fleeting hour,
And purchase from the hand of death
A little span, a moment's breath,
How I would love the precious ore!
And every hour should swell my store;

That when Death came, with shadowy pinion,
To waft me to his bleak dominion,[2]
I might, by bribes, my doom delay,
And bid him call some distant day.
But, since, not all earth's golden store
Can buy for us one bright hour more,
Why should we vainly mourn our fate
Or sigh at life's uncertain date?
Nor wealth nor grandeur can illume
The silent midnight of the tomb.
No — give to others hoarded treasures —
Mine be the brilliant round of pleasures;
The goblet rich, the board of friends,
Whose social souls the goblet blends;[3]
And mine, while yet I've life to live,
Those joys that love alone can give.

ODE XXXVII.[4]

'Twas night, and many a circling bowl
Had deeply warm'd my thirsty soul;
As lull'd in slumber I was laid,
Bright visions o'er my fancy play'd.
With maidens, blooming as the dawn,
I seem'd to skim the opening lawn;

Μη δυσχεραινε, φημι.
Κυπριν τε και Κορινναν
Διαγωνωσαι ουκ εχουσι
Και οι βλεποντες οξυ.

As dancing o'er the enamell'd plain,
The flow'ret of the virgin train,
My soul's Corinna lightly play'd,
Young Cupid saw the graceful maid;
He saw, and in a moment flew,
And round her neck his arms he threw;
Saying, with smiles of infant joy,
"Oh! kiss me, mother, kiss thy boy!"
Unconscious of a mother's name,
The modest virgin blush'd with shame!
And angry Cupid, scarce believing
That vision could be so deceiving —
Thus to mistake his Cyprian dame!
It made ev'n Cupid blush with shame.
"Be not asham'd, my boy," I cried,
For I was lingering by his side;
"Corinna and thy lovely mother,
Believe me, are so like each other,
That clearest eyes are oft betray'd,
And take thy Venus for the maid."

Zitto, in his Cappriciosi Pensieri, has given a translation of this ode of Anacreon.

[1] Fontenelle has translated this ode, in his dialogue between Anacreon and Aristotle in the shades, where, on weighing the merits of both these personages, he bestows the prize of wisdom upon the poet.

"The German imitators of this ode are, Lessing, in his poem 'Gestern Brüder,' &c.; Gleim, in the ode 'An den Tod;' and Schmidt in der Poet. Blumenl., Gotting. 1783, p. 7." — *Degen.*

[2] *That when Death came, with shadowy pinion,*
To waft me to his bleak dominion, &c.] The commentators, who are so fond of disputing "de lanâ caprinâ," have been very busy on the authority of the phrase ἐν' αν Θανατος επελθη. The reading of ἐν' αν Θανατος επελθη, which De Medenbach proposes in his Amœnitates Literariæ, was already hinted by Le Fevre, who seldom suggests any thing worth notice.

[3] *The goblet rich, the board of friends,*
Whose social souls the goblet blends;] This communion of friendship, which sweetened the bowl of Anacreon, has not been forgotten by the author of the following scholium, where the blessings of life are enumerated with proverbial simplicity. Τγιαινειν μεν αριστον ανδρι ζωντι. Δευτερον δε, καλον φυην γενεσθαι. Το τριτον δε, πλουτειν αδολως. Και το τεταρτον συνεβαν μετα των φιλων.

Of mortal blessings here the first is health,
And next those charms by which the eye we move;
The third is wealth, unwounding guiltless wealth,
And then, sweet intercourse with those we love!

[4] Compare with this ode the beautiful poem 'der Traum' of Uz." — *Degen.*

* Le Fevre, in a note upon this ode, enters into an elaborate and learned justification of drunkenness; and this is probably the cause of the severe reprehension which he appears to have suffered for his Anacreon. "Fuit olim fateor (says he in a note upon Longinus), cum Sapphonem amabam. Sed ex quo illa me perditissima fœmina pene miserum perdidit cum sceleratissimo suo congerrone, (Anacreontem dico, si nescis, Lector,) noli sperare, &c. &c." He adduces on this ode the authority of Plato, who allowed ebriety, at the Dionysian festivals, to men arrived at their fortieth year. He likewise quotes the following line from Alexis, which he says no one, who is not totally ignorant of the world, can hesitate to confess the truth of: —

Ουδεις φιλοποτης εστιν ανθρωπος κακος.

"No lover of drinking was ever a vicious man."

Light, on tiptoe bath'd in dew,
We flew, and sported as we flew!

Some ruddy striplings who look'd on—
With cheeks, that like the wine-god's shone,
Saw me chasing, free and wild,
These blooming maids, and slyly smil'd;
Smil'd indeed with wanton glee,
Though none could doubt they envied me.
And still I flew—and now had caught
The panting nymphs, and fondly thought
To gather from each rosy lip
A kiss that Jove himself might sip—
When sudden all my dream of joys,
Blushing nymphs and laughing boys,
All were gone![1]—"Alas!" I said,
Sighing for th' illusion fled,
"Again, sweet sleep, that scene restore,
Oh! let me dream it o'er and o'er!"[2]

ODE XXXVIII.[3]

Let us drain the nectar'd bowl,
Let us raise the song of soul
To him, the god who loves so well
The nectar'd bowl, the choral swell;
The god who taught the sons of earth
To thrid the tangled dance of mirth;
Him, who was nurs'd with infant Love,
And cradled in the Paphian grove;
Him, that the snowy Queen of Charms
So oft has fondled in her arms.[4]

Oh 'tis from him the transport flows,
Which sweet intoxication knows;
With him, the brow forgets its gloom,
And brilliant graces learn to bloom.

Behold!—my boys a goblet bear,
Whose sparkling foam lights up the air.
Where are now the tear, the sigh?
To the winds they fly, they fly!
Grasp the bowl; in nectar sinking!
Man of sorrow, drown thy thinking!
Say, can the tears we lend to thought
In life's account avail us aught?
Can we discern with all our lore,
The path we've yet to journey o'er?
Alas, alas, in ways so dark,
'Tis only wine can strike a spark![5]
Then let me quaff the foamy tide,
And through the dance meandering glide;
Let me imbibe the spicy breath
Of odours chaf'd to fragrant death;
Or from the lips of love inhale
A more ambrosial, richer gale!
To hearts that court the phantom Care,
Let him retire and shroud him there;
While we exhaust the nectar'd bowl,
And swell the choral song of soul
To him, the god who loves so well
The nectar'd bowl, the choral swell!

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[1] *When sudden all my dream of joys,*
Blushing nymphs and laughing boys,
All were gone!] "Nonnus says of Bacchus, almost in the same words that Anacreon uses,—

Εγερμενος δε
Παρθενον ουκ εσιχησε, και ηθελεν αυθις ιαυειν."

Waking, he lost the phantom's charms,
The nymph had faded from his arms;
Again to slumber he essay'd,
Again to clasp the shadowy maid. LONGEPIERRE.

[2] "*Again, sweet sleep, that scene restore,*
Oh! let me dream it o'er and o'er!"] Doctor Johnson, in his preface to Shakspeare, animadverting upon the commentators of that poet, who pretended, in every little coincidence of thought, to detect an imitation of some ancient poet, alludes in the following words to the line of Anacreon before us:—"I have been told that when Caliban, after a pleasing dream, says, 'I cried to sleep again,' the author imitates Anacreon, who had, like any other man, the same wish on the same occasion."

[3] "Compare with this beautiful ode to Bacchus the verses of Hagedorn, lib. v. 'das Gesellschaftliche;' and of Bürger, p. 51, &c. &c."—*Degen.*

[4] *Him, that the snowy Queen of Charms*
So oft has fondled in her arms.] Robertellus, upon the epithalamium of Catullus, mentions an ingenious derivation of Cytherea, the name of Venus, παρα το κευθειν τους ερωτας, which seems to hint that "Love's fairy favours are lost, when not concealed."

[5] *Alas, alas, in ways so dark,*
'Tis only wine can strike a spark!] The brevity of life allows arguments for the voluptuary as well as the moralist. Among many parallel passages which Longepierre has adduced, I shall content myself with this epigram from the Anthologia.

Λουσαμενοι, Περδικη, πυκασωμεθα, και τον ακρατον
Ελκωμεν, πυλικας μειζονας αρσαμενοι.
Ραιος ο χαιρεοντων εστι βιος. τα δε λοιπα
Γηρας κωλυσει, και το τελος θανατος.

Of which the following is a paraphrase:—

Let's fly, my love, from noonday's beam,
To plunge us in yon cooling stream;
Then, hastening to the festal bower,
We'll pass in mirth the evening hour;
'Tis thus our age of bliss shall fly,
As sweet, though passing as that sigh,
Which seems to whisper o'er your lip,
"Come, while you may, of rapture sip."
For age will steal the graceful form,
Will chill the pulse, while throbbing warm;
And death—alas! that hearts, which thrill
Like yours and mine, should e'er be still!

ODE XXXIX.

How I love the festive boy,
Tripping through the dance of joy!
How I love the mellow sage,
Smiling through the veil of age!
And whene'er this man of years
In the dance of joy appears,
Snows may o'er his head be flung,
But his heart—his heart is young. [1]

ODE XL.

I KNOW that Heaven hath sent me here
To run this mortal life's career;
The scenes which I have journey'd o'er,
Return no more—alas! no more;
And all the path I've yet to go,
I neither know nor ask to know.
Away, then, wizard Care, nor think
Thy fetters round this soul to link;
Never can heart that feels with me
Descend to be a slave to thee! [2]
And oh! before the vital thrill,
Which trembles at my heart, is still,
I'll gather Joy's luxuriant flowers,
And gild with bliss my fading hours;
Bacchus shall bid my winter bloom,
And Venus dance me to the tomb! [3]

ODE XLI.

WHEN Spring adorns the dewy scene,
How sweet to walk the velvet green,
And hear the west wind's gentle sighs,
As o'er the scented mead it flies!
How sweet to mark the pouting vine,
Ready to burst in tears of wine;
And with some maid, who breathes but love,
To walk, at noontide, through the grove, [4]
Or sit in some cool, green recess—
Oh, is not this true happiness?

ODE XLII. [5]

YES, be the glorious revel mine,
Where humour sparkles from the wine.
Around me, let the youthful choir
Respond to my enlivening lyre;

[1] *Snows may o'er his head be flung,*
But his heart—his heart is young.] Saint Pavin makes the same distinction in a sonnet to a young girl.

Je sais bien que les destinées
Ont mal compassé nos années;
Ne regardez que mon amour;
Peut-être en serez vous émue.
Il est jeune et n'est que du jour,
Belle Iris, que je vous ai vue.
Fair and young thou bloomest now,
And I full many a year have told;
But read the heart and not the brow,
Thou shalt not find my love is old.
My love's a child; and thou canst say
How much his little age may be,
For he was born the very day
When first I set my eyes on thee!

[2] *Never can heart that feels with me*
Descend to be a slave to thee!] Longepierre quotes here an epigram from the Anthologia, on account of the similarity of a particular phrase. Though by no means anacreontic, it is marked by an interesting simplicity which has induced me to paraphrase it, and may atone for its intrusion.

Ελπις και συ τυχη μαλα χαιρετε. τον λιμεν' εὑρον.
Ουδεν εμοι χ' ὑμιν, παιζετε τους μετ' εμε.
At length to Fortune, and to you,
Delusive Hope! a last adieu.
The charm that once beguil'd is o'er,
And I have reach'd my destin'd shore.
Away, away, your flattering arts
May now betray some simpler hearts,
And you will smile at their believing,
And they shall weep at your deceiving!

[3] *Bacchus shall bid my winter bloom,*
And Venus dance me to the tomb!] The same commentator has quoted an epitaph, written upon our poet by Julian, in which he makes him promulgate the precepts of good fellowship even from the tomb.

Πολλακι μεν τοδ' ειπα, και εκ τυμβου δε βοησω,
Πινετε, κειν ταυτην αμφιβαλησθε κονιν.
This lesson oft in life I sung,
And from my grave I still shall cry,
"Drink, mortal, drink, while time is young,
Ere death has made thee cold as I."

[4] *And with some maid, who breathes but love,*
To walk, at noontide, through the grove,] Thus Horace:—

Quid habes illius, illius
Quæ spirabat amores,
Quæ me surpuerat mihi. Lib. iv. Carm. 13.

And does there then remain but this,
And hast thou lost each rosy ray
Of her, who breath'd the soul of bliss,
And stole me from myself away?

[5] The character of Anacreon is here very strikingly depicted. His love of social, harmonised pleasures, is expressed with a warmth, amiable and endearing. Among the epigrams imputed to Anacreon is the following; it is the only one worth translation, and it breathes the same sentiments with this ode:—

Ου φιλος, ὁς κρητηρι παρα πλεω οινοποταζων,
Νεικεα και πολεμον δακρυοεντα λεγει.
Αλλ' ὁστις Μουσεων τε, και αγλαα δωρ' Αφροδιτης
Συμμισγων, ἱμερτης μνησεται ευφροσυνης.
When to the lip the brimming cup is prest,
And hearts are all afloat upon its stream,
Then banish from my board th' unpolish'd guest,
Who makes the feats of war his barbarous theme.
But bring the man, who o'er his goblet wreathes
The Muse's laurel with the Cyprian flower;
Oh! give me him, whose soul expansive breathes
And blends refinement with the social hour.

And while the red cup foams along,
Mingle in soul as well as song.
Then, while I sit, with flowret's crown'd,
To regulate the goblet's round,
Let but the nymph, our banquet's pride,
Be seated smiling by my side,
And earth has not a gift or power
That I would envy, in that hour.
Envy!—oh never let its blight
Touch the gay hearts met here to-night.
Far hence be slander's sidelong wounds,
Nor harsh dispute, nor discord's sounds
Disturb a scene, where all should be
Attuned to peace and harmony.

Come, let us hear the harp's gay note
Upon the breeze inspiring float,
While round us, kindling into love,
Young maidens through the light dance move.
Thus blest with mirth, and love, and peace,
Sure such a life should never cease!

ODE XLIII.

WHILE our rosy fillets shed
Freshness o'er each fervid head,
With many a cup and many a smile
The festal moments we beguile.
And while the harp, impassion'd, flings
Tuneful raptures from its strings,[1]
Some airy nymph, with graceful bound,
Keeps measure to the music's sound;
Waving, in her snowy hand,
The leafy Bacchanalian wand,
Which, as the tripping wanton flies,
Trembles all over to her sighs.
A youth the while, with loosen'd hair,
Floating on the listless air,
Sings, to the wild harp's tender tone,
A tale of woes, alas, his own;
And oh, the sadness in his sigh,
As o'er his lip the accents die![2]
Never sure on earth has been
Half so bright, so blest a scene.
It seems as Love himself had come
To make this spot his chosen home;—[3]
And Venus, too, with all her wiles,
And Bacchus, shedding rosy smiles,
All, all are here, to hail with me
The Genius of Festivity![4]

ODE XLIV.[5]

BUDS of roses, virgin flowers,
Cull'd from Cupid's balmy bowers,
In the bowl of Bacchus steep,
Till with crimson drops they weep.
Twine the rose, the garland twine,
Every leaf distilling wine;
Drink and smile, and learn to think
That we were born to smile and drink.

[1] *And while the harp, impassion'd, flings*
Tuneful rapture from its strings, &c.] Respecting the barbiton a host of authorities may be collected, which, after all, leave us ignorant of the nature of the instrument. There is scarcely any point upon which we are so totally uninformed as the music of the ancients. The authors[a] extant upon the subject are, I imagine, little understood; and certainly if one of their moods was a progression by quarter-tones, which we are told was the nature of the enharmonic scale, simplicity was by no means the characteristic of their melody; for this is a nicety of progression, of which modern music is not susceptible.

The invention of the barbiton is, by Athenæus, attributed to Anacreon. See his fourth book, where it is called το τύρημα του Ανακρεοντος. Neanthes of Cyzicus, as quoted by Gyraldus, asserts the same. Vide Chabot, in Horat. on the words "Lesboum barbiton," in the first ode.

[2] *And oh, the sadness in his sigh,*
As o'er his lip the accents die!] Longepierre has quoted here an epigram from the Anthologia:—

Κουφη τις μ' ιφιλησε ποθιστερα χειλεσιν ὑγροις.
Νεκταρ ην το φιλημα. το γαρ στομα νεκταρος ἐσπει.
Νυν μεθυω το φιλημα, πολυν τον ερωτα πεπωκως.

Of which the following paraphrase may give some idea:—

The kiss that she left on my lip,
Like a dew-drop shall lingering lie;
'Twas nectar she gave me to sip,
'Twas nectar I drank in her sigh.
From the moment she printed that kiss,
Nor reason, nor rest has been mine;
My whole soul has been drunk with the bliss,
And feels a delirium divine!

[3] *It seems as Love himself had come*
To make this spot his chosen home;—] The introduction of these deities to the festival is merely allegorical. Madame Dacier thinks that the poet describes a masquerade, where these deities were personated by the company in masks. The translation will conform with either idea.

[4] *All, all are here, to hail with me*
The Genius of Festivity!] Κωμος, the deity or genius of mirth. Philostratus, in the third of his pictures, gives a very lively description of this god.

[5] This spirited poem is a eulogy on the rose; and again, in the fifty-fifth ode, we shall find our author rich in the praises of that flower. In a fragment of Sappho, in the romance of Achilles Tatius, to which Barnes refers us, the rose is fancifully styled "the eye of flowers;" and the same poetess, in another fragment, calls the favours of the Muse "the roses of Pieria." See the notes on the fifty-fifth ode.

"Compare with this ode (says the German annotator) the beautiful ode of Uz, 'die Rose.'"

[a] Collected by Meibomius.

Rose, thou art the sweetest flower
That ever drank the amber shower;
Rose, thou art the fondest child
Of dimpled Spring, the wood-nymph wild.
Even the Gods, who walk the sky,
Are amorous of thy scented sigh.
Cupid, too, in Paphian shades,
His hair with rosy fillet braids,
When with the blushing, sister Graces,
The wanton winding dance he traces. [1]
Then bring me, showers of roses bring,
And shed them o'er me while I sing,
Or while, great Bacchus, round thy shrine,
Wreathing my brow with rose and vine,
I lead some bright nymph through the dance,[2]
Commingling soul with every glance.

ODE XLV.

WITHIN this goblet, rich and deep,
I cradle all my woes to sleep.
Why should we breathe the sigh of fear,
Or pour the unavailing tear?
For death will never heed the sigh,
Nor soften at the tearful eye;
And eyes that sparkle, eyes that weep,
Must all alike be seal'd in sleep.
Then let us never vainly stray,
In search of thorns, from pleasure's way; [3]
But wisely quaff the rosy wave,
Which Bacchus loves, which Bacchus gave;
And in the goblet, rich and deep,
Cradle our crying woes to sleep.

ODE XLVI.[4]

BEHOLD, the young, the rosy Spring,
Gives to the breeze her scented wing;
While virgin Graces, warm with May,
Fling roses o'er her dewy way. [5]
The murmuring billows of the deep
Have languish'd into silent sleep; [6]
And mark! the flitting sea-birds lave
Their plumes in the reflecting wave;
While cranes from hoary winter fly
To flutter in a kinder sky.
Now the genial star of day
Dissolves the murky clouds away;
And cultur'd field, and winding stream,[7]
Are freshly glittering in his beam.

Now the earth prolific swells
With leafy buds and flowery bells;
Gemming shoots the olive twine,
Clusters ripe festoon the vine;
All along the branches creeping,
Through the velvet foliage peeping,
Little infant fruits we see,
Nursing into luxury.

[1] *When with the blushing, sister Graces,*
The wanton winding dance he traces.] "This sweet idea of Love dancing with the Graces, is almost peculiar to Anacreon." — *Degen.*

[2] *I lead some bright nymph through the dance, &c.*] The epithet βαθυκολπος, which he gives to the nymph, is literally "full-bosomed."

[3] *Then let us never vainly stray,*
In search of thorns, from pleasure's way; &c.] I have thus endeavoured to convey the meaning of τι δε τον βιον πλαναομαι; according to Regnier's paraphrase of the line: —

E che val, fuor della strada
Del piacere alma e gradita,
Vaneggiare in questa vita?

[4] The fastidious affectation of some commentators has denounced this ode as spurious. Degen pronounces the four last lines to be the patch-work of some miserable versificator, and Brunck condemns the whole ode. It appears to me, on the contrary, to be elegantly graphical; full of delicate expressions and luxuriant imagery. The abruptness of Ιδε πως εαρος φαινοντος is striking and spirited, and has been imitated rather languidly by Horace: —

Vides ut alta stet nive candidum
Soracte ——

The imperative ιδε is infinitely more impressive; — as in Shakspeare,

But look, the morn, in russet mantle clad,
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastern hill.

There is a simple and poetical description of Spring, in Catullus's beautiful farewell to Bithynia. Carm. 44.

Barnes conjectures, in his life of our poet, that this ode was written after he had returned from Athens, to settle in his paternal seat at Teos; where, in a little villa at some distance from the city, commanding a view of the Ægean Sea and the islands, he contemplated the beauties of nature and enjoyed the felicities of retirement. Vide Barnes, in Anac. Vita, § xxxv. This supposition, however unauthenticated, forms a pleasing association, which renders the poem more interesting.

Chevreau says, that Gregory Nazianzenus has paraphrased somewhere this description of Spring; but I cannot meet with it. See Chevreau, Œuvres Mêlées.

"Compare with this ode (says Degen) the verses of Hagedorn, book fourth, 'der Frühling,' and book fifth, 'der Mai.'"

[5] *While virgin Graces, warm with May,*
Fling roses o'er her dewy way.] De Pauw reads, Χαριτες ῥοδα βρυουσιν, "the roses display their graces." This is not uningenious; but we lose by it the beauty of the personification, to the boldness of which Regnier has rather frivolously objected.

[6] *The murmuring billows of the deep*
Have languish'd into silent sleep; &c.] It has been justly remarked, that the liquid flow of the line απαλυνεται γαληνη is perfectly expressive of the tranquillity which it describes.

[7] *And cultur'd field, and winding stream, &c.*] By βροτων εργα "the works of men" (says Baxter), he means cities, temples, and towns, which are then illuminated by the beams of the sun.

ODE XLVII.

'Tis true, my fading years decline,
Yet can I quaff the brimming wine,
As deep as any stripling fair,
Whose cheeks the flush of morning wear;
And if, amidst the wanton crew,
I'm call'd to wind the dance's clue,
Then shalt thou see this vigorous hand,
Not faltering on the Bacchant's wand,
But brandishing a rosy flask, [1]
The only thyrsus e'er I'll ask! [2]

Let those, who pant for Glory's charms,
Embrace her in the field of arms;
While my inglorious, placid soul
Breathes not a wish beyond this bowl.
Then fill it high, my ruddy slave,
And bathe me in its brimming wave.
For though my fading years decay,
Though manhood's prime hath pass'd away,
Like old Silenus, sire divine,
With blushes borrow'd from my wine,
I'll wanton 'mid the dancing train,
And live my follies o'er again!

ODE XLVIII.

When my thirsty soul I steep,
Every sorrow's lull'd to sleep.
Talk of monarchs! I am then
Richest, happiest, first of men;
Careless o'er my cup I sing,
Fancy makes me more than king;
Gives me wealthy Crœsus' store,
Can I, can I wish for more?
On my velvet couch reclining,
Ivy leaves my brow entwining, [3]
While my soul expands with glee,
What are kings and crowns to me?
If before my feet they lay,
I would spurn them all away!
Arm ye, arm ye, men of might,
Hasten to the sanguine fight; [4]
But let *me*, my budding vine!
Spill no other blood than thine.
Yonder brimming goblet see,
That alone shall vanquish me—
Who think it better, wiser far
To fall in banquet than in war.

ODE XLIX. [5]

When Bacchus, Jove's immortal boy,
The rosy harbinger of joy,
Who, with the sunshine of the bowl,
Thaws the winter of our soul— [6]
When to my inmost core he glides,
And bathes it with his ruby tides,
A flow of joy, a lively heat,
Fires my brain, and wings my feet,
Calling up round me visions known
To lovers of the bowl alone,

Sing, sing of love, let music's sound
In melting cadence float around,
While, my young Venus, thou and I
Responsive to its murmurs sigh,
Then, waking from our blissful trance,
Again we'll sport, again we'll dance.

[1] *But brandishing a rosy flask, &c.*] Ασκος was a kind of leathern vessel for wine, very much in use, as should seem by the proverb ασκος και ῥυλακος, which was applied to those who were intemperate in eating and drinking. This proverb is mentioned in some verses quoted by Athenæus, from the Hesione of Alexis.

[2] *The only thyrsus ere I'll ask!*] Phornutus assigns as a reason for the consecration of the thyrsus to Bacchus, that inebriety often renders the support of a stick very necessary.

[3] *Ivy leaves my brow entwining, &c.*] "The ivy was consecrated to Bacchus (says Montfaucon), because he formerly lay hid under that tree, or, as others will have it, because its leaves resemble those of the vine." Other reasons for its consecration, and the use of it in garlands at banquets, may be found in Longepierre, Barnes, &c. &c.

[4] *Arm ye, arm ye, men of might,*
Hasten to the sanguine fight;] I have adopted the interpretation of Regnier and others:—

Altri segua Marte feró;
Che sol Bacco è 'l mio conforto.

[5] This, the preceding ode, and a few more of the same character, are merely chansons à boire;—the effusions probably of the moment of conviviality, and afterwards sung, we may imagine, with rapture throughout Greece. But that interesting association, by which they always recalled the convivial emotions that produced them, can now be little felt even by the most enthusiastic reader; and much less by a phlegmatic grammarian, who sees nothing in them but dialects and particles.

[6] *Who, with the sunshine of the bowl,*
Thaws the winter of our soul—&c.] Ανακτος is the title which he gives to Bacchus in the original. It is a curious circumstance that Plutarch mistook the name of Levi among the Jews for Λεῦι (one of the bacchanal cries), and accordingly supposed that they worshipped Bacchus.

ODE L.[1]

When wine I quaff, before my eyes
Dreams of poetic glory rise ;[2]
And freshen'd by the goblet's dews,
My soul invokes the heavenly Muse.
When wine I drink, all sorrow's o'er ;
I think of doubts and fears no more ;
But scatter to the railing wind
Each gloomy phantom of the mind.
When I drink wine, th' ethereal boy,
Bacchus himself, partakes my joy ;
And while we dance through vernal bowers,[3]
Whose ev'ry breath comes fresh from flowers,
In wine he makes my senses swim,
Till the gale breathes of nought but him!

Again I drink,—and, lo, there seems
A calmer light to fill my dreams ;
The lately ruffled wreath I spread
With steadier hand around my head ;
Then take the lyre, and sing "how blest
The life of him who lives at rest!
But then comes witching wine again,
With glorious woman in its train ;
And, while rich perfumes round me rise,
That seem the breath of woman's sighs,
Bright shapes, of every hue and form,
Upon my kindling fancy swarm,
Till the whole world of beauty seems
To crowd into my dazzled dreams!
When thus I drink, my heart refines,
And rises as the cup declines ;
Rises in the genial flow,
That none but social spirits know,
When, with young revellers, round the bowl,
The old themselves grow young in soul![4]
Oh, when I drink, true joy is mine,
There's bliss in every drop of wine.
All other blessings I have known,
I scarcely dar'd to call my own ;
But this the Fates can ne'er destroy,
Till death o'ershadows all my joy.

ODE LI.[5]

Fly not thus my brow of snow,
Lovely wanton! fly not so.
Though the wane of age is mine,
Though youth's brilliant flush be thine,
Still I'm doom'd to sigh for thee,
Blest, if thou couldst sigh for me!

[1] Faber thinks this Ode spurious ; but, I believe, he is singular in his opinion. It has all the spirit of our author. Like the wreath which he presented in the dream, "it smells of Anacreon."

The form of the original is remarkable. It is a kind of song of seven quatrain stanzas, each beginning with the line

Ὅτ' ἐγὼ πίω τὸν οἶνον

The first stanza alone is incomplete, consisting but of three lines.

"Compare with this poem (says Degen) the verses of Hagedorn, lib. v., 'der Wein,' where that divine poet has wantoned in the praises of wine."

[2] *When wine I quaff, before my eyes*
Dreams of poetic glory rise ;] "Anacreon is not the only one (says Longepierre) whom wine has inspired with poetry. We find an epigram in the first book of the Anthologia, which begins thus : —

Οἶνος τοι χαρίεντι μεγας πέλει ἵππος ἀοιδῷ,
Τῷ δὲ πίνων, καλὸν οὐ τέτυκται ἔπος.

If with water you fill up your glasses,
You'll never write any thing wise ;
For wine's the true horse of Parnassus,
Which carries a bard to the skies!

[3] *And while we dance through vernal bowers, &c.]* If some of the translators had observed Doctor Trapp's caution, with regard to πολυανθέσιν μ' ἐν αὐγαῖς, "Cave ne cœlum intelligas," they would not have spoiled the simplicity of Anacreon's fancy, by such extravagant conceptions as the following : —

Quand je bois, mon œil s'imagine
Que, dans un tourbillon plein de parfums divers,
Bacchus m'emporte dans les airs,
Rempli de sa liqueur divine.

Or this : —

Indi mi mena
Mentre lieto ebro, deliro,
Baccho in giro
Per la vaga aura serena.

[4] *When, with young revellers, round the bowl,*
The old themselves grow young in soul!] Subjoined to Gail's edition of Anacreon, we find some curious letters upon the Θιασοι of the ancients, which appeared in the French Journals. At the opening of the Odéon in Paris, the managers of that spectacle requested Professor Gail to give them some uncommon name for their fêtes. He suggested the word "Thiase," which was adopted ; but the literati of Paris questioned the propriety of the term, and addressed their criticisms to Gail through the medium of the public prints.

[5] Alberti has imitated this ode ; and Capilupus, in the following epigram, has given a version of it : —

Cur, Lalage, mea vita, meos contemnis amores?
Cur fugis e nostro pulchra puella sinu?
Ne fugias, sint sparsa licet mea tempora canis,
Inque tuo roseus fulgeat ore color.
Aspice ut intextas deceant quoque flore corollas
Candida purpureis lilia mista rosis.

Oh! why repel my soul's impassion'd vow,
And fly, beloved maid, these longing arms?
Is it, that wintry time has strew'd my brow,
While thine are all the summer's roseate charms?

See the rich garland cull'd in vernal weather,
Where the young rosebud with the lily glows;
So, in Love's wreath we both may twine together,
And I the lily be, and thou the rose.

See, in yonder flowery braid,
Cull'd for thee, my blushing maid, [1]
How the rose, of orient glow,
Mingles with the lily's snow;
Mark, how sweet their tints agree,
Just, my girl, like thee and me!

ODE LII.[2]

AWAY, away, ye men of rules,
What have I to do with schools?
They'd make me learn, they'd make me think,
But would they make me love and drink?
Teach me this, and let me swim
My soul upon the goblet's brim;
Teach me this, and let me twine
Some fond, responsive heart to mine,[3]
For, age begins to blanch my brow,
I've time for nought but pleasure now.

Fly, and cool my goblet's glow
At yonder fountain's gelid flow;
I'll quaff, my boy, and calmly sink
This soul to slumber as I drink.
Soon, too soon, my jocund slave,
You'll deck your master's grassy grave;
And there's an end—for ah, you know
They drink but little wine below![4]

ODE LIII.

WHEN I behold the festive train
Of dancing youth, I'm young again!
Memory wakes her magic trance,
And wings me lightly through the dance.
Come, Cybeba, smiling maid!
Cull the flower and twine the braid;
Bid the blush of summer's rose
Burn upon my forehead's snows;[5]
And let me, while the wild and young
Trip the mazy dance along,
Fling my heap of years away,
And be as wild, as young, as they.
Hither haste, some cordial soul!
Help to my lips the brimming bowl;
And you shall see this hoary sage
Forget at once his locks and age.
He still can chant the festive hymn,
He still can kiss the goblet's brim;[6]
As deeply quaff, as largely fill,
And play the fool right nobly still.

[1] *See, in yonder flowery braid,*
Cull'd for thee, my blushing maid!] "In the same manner that Anacreon pleads for the whiteness of his locks, from the beauty of the colour in garlands, a shepherd, in Theocritus, endeavours to recommend his black hair:—

Και το ιον μελαν εστι, και ἁ γραπτα υακινθος,
Αλλ' εμπας εν τοις στεφανοις τα πρωτα λεγονται."
Longepierre, Barnes, &c.

[2] "This is doubtless the work of a more modern poet than Anacreon; for at the period when he lived rhetoricians were not known."—*Degen.*

Though this ode is found in the Vatican manuscript, I am much inclined to agree in this argument against its authenticity; for though the dawnings of the art of rhetoric might already have appeared, the first who gave it any celebrity was Corax of Syracuse, and he flourished in the century after Anacreon.

Our poet anticipated the ideas of Epicurus, in his aversion to the labours of learning, as well as his devotion to voluptuousness. Πασαν παιδειαν μακαριοι φευγετε, said the philosopher of the garden in a letter to Pythocles.

[3] *Teach me this, and let me twine*
Some fond, responsive heart to mine.] By χρυσης Αφροδιτης here, I understand some beautiful girl, in the same manner that Λυκιος is often used for wine. "Golden" is frequently an epithet of beauty. Thus in Virgil, "Venus aurea;" and in Propertius, "Cynthia aurea." Tibullus, however, calls an old woman "golden."

The translation d'Autori Anonimi, as usual, wantons on this passage of Anacreon:

E m' insegni con più rare
Forme accorte d' involare
Ad amabile beltade
Il bel cinto d' onestade.

[4] *And there's an end—for ah, you know*
They drink but little wine below!] Thus Mainard:—

La Mort nous guette; et quand ses lois
Nous ont enfermés une fois
Au sein d'une fosse profonde,
Adieu bons vins et bon repas;
Ma science ne trouve pas
Des cabarets en l'autre monde.

From Mainard, Gombauld, and De Cailly, old French poets, some of the best epigrams of the English language have been borrowed.

[5] *Bid the blush of summer's rose*
Burn upon my forehead's snows; &c.] Licetus, in his Hieroglyphica, quoting two of our poet's odes, where he calls to his attendants for garlands, remarks, "Constat igitur floreas coronas poetis et potantibus in symposio convenire, non autem sapientibus et philosophiam affectantibus."—"It appears that wreaths of flowers were adapted for poets and revellers at banquets, but by no means became those who had pretensions to wisdom and philosophy." On this principle, in his 152d chapter, he discovers a refinement in Virgil, describing the garland of the poet Silenus, as fallen off; which distinguishes, he thinks, the divine intoxication of Silenus from that of common drunkards, who always wear their crowns while they drink. Such is the "labor inepti-arum" of commentators!

[6] *He still can kiss the goblet's brim; &c.*] Wine is pre-

ODE LIV.[1]

METHINKS, the pictur'd bull we see
Is amorous Jove — it must be he!
How fondly blest he seems to bear
That fairest of Phœnician fair!
How proud he breasts the foamy tide,
And spurns the billowy surge aside!
Could any beast of vulgar vein
Undaunted thus defy the main?
No: he descends from climes above,
He looks the God, he breathes of Jove![2]

ODE LV.[3]

WHILE we invoke the wreathed spring,
Resplendent rose! to thee we'll sing:[4]
Whose breath perfumes th' Olympian bowers;
Whose virgin blush, of chasten'd dye,
Enchants so much our mortal eye.
When pleasure's spring-tide season glows,
The Graces love to wreathe the rose;
And Venus, in its fresh-blown leaves,[5]
An emblem of herself perceives.
Oft hath the poet's magic tongue
The rose's fair luxuriance sung;[6]
And long the Muses, heavenly maids,
Have rear'd it in their tuneful shades.
When, at the early glance of morn,
It sleeps upon the glittering thorn,
'Tis sweet to dare the tangled fence,
To cull the timid flow'ret thence,
And wipe with tender hand away
The tear that on its blushes lay!
'Tis sweet to hold the infant stems,
Yet dropping with Aurora's gems,

scribed by Galen, as an excellent medicine for old men: "Quod frigidos et humoribus expletos calefaciat, &c.;" but Nature was Anacreon's physician.

There is a proverb in Eriphus, as quoted by Athenæus, which says, "that wine makes an old man dance, whether he will or not."

Λογος εστ' αρχαιος, ου κακως εχων,
Οινον λεγουσι τους γεροντας, ω πατερ,
Πειθειν χορεειν ου θελοντας.

[1] "This ode is written upon a picture which represented the rape of Europa."—*Madame Dacier.*

It may probably have been a description of one of those coins, which the Sidonians struck off in honour of Europa, representing a woman carried across the sea by a bull. Thus Natalis Comes, lib. viii. cap. 23. "Sidonii numismata cum fœminâ tauri dorso insidente ac mare transfretante cuderunt in ejus honorem" In the little treatise upon the goddess of Syria, attributed very falsely to Lucian, there is mention of this coin, and of a temple dedicated by the Sidonians to Astarté, whom some, it appears, confounded with Europa.

The poet Moschus has left a very beautiful idyl on the story of Europa.

[2] *No: he descends from climes above,*
He looks the God, he breathes of Jove!] Thus Moschus:—

Κρυψε θεον και τρεψε δεμας· και γινετο ταυρος.

The God forgot himself, his heaven, for love,
And a bull's form belied th' almighty Jove.

[3] This ode is a brilliant panegyric on the rose. "All antiquity (says Barnes) has produced nothing more beautiful."

From the idea of peculiar excellence, which the ancients attached to this flower, arose a pretty proverbial expression, used by Aristophanes, according to Suidas, *ῥοδα μ' ειρηκας*, "You have spoken roses," a phrase somewhat similar to the "dire des fleurettes" of the French. In the same idea of excellence originated, I doubt not, a very curious application of the word *ῥοδον*, for which the inquisitive reader may consult Gaulminus upon the epithalamium of our poet, where it is introduced in the romance of Theodorus. Muretus, in one of his elegies, calls his mistress his rose:—

Jam te igitur rursus teneo, formosula, jam te
(Quid trepidas?) teneo; jam, rosa, te teneo. Eleg. 8.

Now I again may clasp thee, dearest,
What is there now, on earth, thou fearest?
Again these longing arms infold thee,
Again, my rose, again I hold thee.

This, like most of the terms of endearment in the modern Latin poets, is taken from Plautus; they were vulgar and colloquial in his time, but are among the elegancies of the modern Latinists.

Passeratius alludes to the ode before us, in the beginning of his poem on the Rose:—

Carmine digna rosa est; vellem caneretur ut illam
Teius argutâ cecinit testudine vates.

[4] *Resplendent rose! to thee we'll sing;*] I have passed over the line *συν ἑταιρει αυξει μελπην*, which is corrupt in this original reading, and has been very little improved by the annotators. I should suppose it to be an interpolation, if it were not for a line which occurs afterwards: *φερε δη φυσιν λεγωμεν.*

[5] *And Venus, in its fresh-blown leaves, &c.*] Belleau, in a note upon an old French poet, quoting the original here *αφροδισιων τ' αθυρμα*, translates it, "comme les délices et mignardises de Venus."

[6] *Oft hath the poet's magic tongue*
The rose's fair luxuriance sung; &c.] The following is a fragment of the Lesbian poetess. It is cited in the romance of Achilles Tatius, who appears to have resolved the numbers into prose. *Ει τοις ανθεσιν ηθελεν ὁ Ζευς επιθειναι βασιλεα, το ῥοδον αν των ανθεων εϐασιλευε. γης εστι κοσμος, φυτων αγλαϊσμα, οφθαλμος ανθεων, λειμωνος ερυθημα, καλλος αστραπτον. Ερωτος πνει, Αφροδιτην προξενει, ευειδεσι φυλλοις κομᾶ, ευκινητοις πεταλοις τρυφᾶ. το πεταλον τῳ Ζεφυρῳ γελᾶ.*

If Jove would give the leafy bowers
A queen for all their world of flowers,
The rose would be the choice of Jove,
And blush, the queen of every grove.
Sweetest child of weeping morning,
Gem, the vest of earth adorning,
Eye of gardens, light of lawns,
Nursling of soft summer dawns;
Love's own earliest sigh it breathes,
Beauty's brow with lustre wreathes,
And, to young Zephyr's warm caresses,
Spreads abroad its verdant tresses,
Till, blushing with the wanton's play,
Its cheek wears ev'n a richer ray!

And fresh inhale the spicy sighs
That from the weeping buds arise.

When revel reigns, when mirth is high,
And Bacchus beams in every eye,
Our rosy fillets scent exhale,
And fill with balm the fainting gale.
There's nought in nature bright or gay,
Where roses do not shed their ray.
When morning paints the orient skies,
Her fingers burn with roseate dyes; [1]
Young nymphs betray the rose's hue,
O'er whitest arms it kindles through.
In Cytherea's form it glows,
And mingles with the living snows.

The rose distils a healing balm,
The beating pulse of pain to calm;
Preserves the cold inurned clay, [2]
And mocks the vestige of decay: [3]
And when at length, in pale decline,
Its florid beauties fade and pine,
Sweet as in youth, its balmy breath
Diffuses odour even in death! [4]
Oh! whence could such a plant have sprung?
Listen,—for thus the tale is sung.

When, humid, from the silvery stream,
Effusing beauty's warmest beam,
Venus appear'd, in flushing hues,
Mellow'd by ocean's briny dews;
When, in the starry courts above,
The pregnant brain of mighty Jove
Disclos'd the nymph of azure glance,
The nymph who shakes the martial lance;—
Then, then, in strange eventful hour,
The earth produc'd an infant flower,
Which sprung, in blushing glories drest,
And wanton'd o'er its parent breast.
The gods beheld this brilliant birth,
And hail'd the Rose, the boon of earth!
With nectar drops, a ruby tide,
The sweetly orient buds they dyed, [5]
And bade them bloom, the flowers divine
Of him who gave the glorious vine;
And bade them on the spangled thorn
Expand their bosoms to the morn.

ODE LVI. [6]

He, who instructs the youthful crew
To bathe them in the brimmer's dew,

[1] *When morning paints the orient skies,*
Her fingers burn with roseate dyes; &c.] In the original here, he enumerates the many epithets of beauty, borrowed from roses, which were used by the poets, παρα των σοφων. We see that poets were dignified in Greece with the title of sages: even the careless Anacreon, who lived but for love and voluptuousness, was called by Plato the wise Anacreon—"fuit hæc sapientia quondam."

[2] *Preserves the cold inurned clay, &c.*] He here alludes to the use of the rose in embalming; and, perhaps (as Barnes thinks), to the rosy unguent with which Venus anointed the corpse of Hector.—Homer's Iliad Ψ. It may likewise regard the ancient practice of putting garlands of roses on the dead, as in Statius, Theb. lib. x. 782.

——— hi sertis, hi veris honore soluto
Accumulant artus, patriâque in sede reponunt
Corpus odoratum.

Where "veris honor," though it mean every kind of flowers, may seem more particularly to refer to the rose, which our poet in another ode calls ἱερος μελημα. We read, in the Hieroglyphics of Pierius, lib. lv. that some of the ancients used to order in their wills, that roses should be annually scattered on their tombs, and Pierius has adduced some sepulchral inscriptions to this purpose.

[3] *And mocks the vestige of decay:*] When he says that this flower prevails over time itself, he still alludes to its efficacy in embalment (tenerâ poneret ossa rosâ. Propert. lib. i. eleg. 17.), or perhaps to the subsequent idea of its fragrance surviving its beauty; for he can scarcely mean to praise for duration the "nimium breves flores" of the rose. Philostratus compares this flower with love, and says, that they both defy the influence of time; χρονον δε ουτε Ερως, ουτε ῥοδα οιδεν. Unfortunately the similitude lies not in their duration, but their transience.

[4] *Sweet as in youth, its balmy breath*
Diffuses odour even in death!] Thus Casper Barlæus, in his Ritus Nuptiarum:

Ambrosium late rosa tunc quoque spargit odorem,
Cum fluit, aut multo languida sole jacet.

Nor then the rose its odour loses,
When all its flushing beauties die;
Nor less ambrosial balm diffuses,
When wither'd by the solar eye.

[5] *With nectar drops, a ruby tide,*
The sweetly orient buds they dyed, &c.] The author of the "Pervigilium Veneris" (a poem attributed to Catullus, the style of which appears to me to have all the laboured luxuriance of a much later period) ascribes the tincture of the rose to the blood from the wound of Adonis—

——— rosæ
Fusæ aprino de cruore—

according to the emendation of Lipsius. In the following epigram this hue is differently accounted for:—

Illa quidem studiosa suum defendere Adonim,
Gradivus stricto quem petit esse ferox,
Affixit duris vestigia cæca rosetis,
Albaque divino picta cruore rosa est.

While the enamour'd queen of joy
Flies to protect her lovely boy,
On whom the jealous war-god rushes;
She treads upon a thorned rose,
And while the wound with crimson flows,
The snowy flow'ret feels her blood, and blushes!

[6] "Compare with this elegant ode the verses of Uz, lib. i. 'die Weinlese.'"—*Degen.*

This appears to be one of the hymns which were sung at the anniversary festival of the vintage; one of the σπιλητιοι ὑμνοι, as our poet himself terms them in the fifty-ninth ode. We cannot help feeling a sort of reverence for these classic relics of the religion of antiquity. Horace may be supposed to have written the nineteenth ode of his second book, and the twenty-fifth of the third, for some bacchanalian celebration of this kind.

And taste, uncloy'd by rich excesses,
All the bliss that wine possesses;
He, who inspires the youth to bound
Elastic through the dance's round,—
Bacchus, the god again is here,
And leads along the blushing year;
The blushing year with vintage teems,
Ready to shed those cordial streams,
Which, sparkling in the cup of mirth,
Illuminate the sons of earth![1]

Then, when the ripe and vermil wine,—
Blest infant of the pregnant vine,
Which now in mellow clusters swells,—
Oh! when it bursts its roseate cells,
Brightly the joyous stream shall flow,
To balsam every mortal woe!
None shall be then cast down or weak,
For health and joy shall light each cheek;
No heart will then desponding sigh,
For wine shall bid despondence fly.
Thus—till another autumn's glow
Shall bid another vintage flow.

ODE LVII.[2]

WHOSE was the artist hand that spread
Upon this disk the ocean's bed?[3]
And, in a flight of fancy, high
As aught on earthly wing can fly,
Depicted thus, in semblance warm,
The Queen of Love's voluptuous form
Floating along the silv'ry sea
In beauty's naked majesty!
Oh! he hath given th' enamour'd sight
A witching banquet of delight,
Where, gleaming through the waters clear,
Glimpses of undreamt charms appear,
And all that mystery loves to screen,
Fancy, like Faith, adores unseen.[4]

Light as the leaf, that on the breeze,
Of summer skims the glassy seas,
She floats along the ocean's breast,
Which undulates in sleepy rest;
While stealing on, she gently pillows
Her bosom on the heaving billows.
Her bosom, like the dew-wash'd rose,[5]
Her neck, like April's sparkling snows,
Illume the liquid path she traces,
And burn within the stream's embraces.
Thus on she moves, in languid pride,
Encircled by the azure tide,
As some fair lily o'er a bed
Of violets bends its graceful head.

Beneath their queen's inspiring glance,
The dolphins o'er the green sea dance,
Bearing in triumph young Desire,[6]
And infant Love with smiles of fire!

[1] *Which, sparkling in the cup of mirth,*
Illuminate the sons of earth!] In the original τοτον αστεον κομιζον. Madame Dacier thinks that the poet here had the nepenthé of Homer in his mind. Odyssey, lib. iv. This nepenthé was a something of exquisite charm, infused by Helen into the wine of her guests, which had the power of dispelling every anxiety. A French writer, De Meré, conjectures that this spell, which made the bowl so beguiling, was the charm of Helen's conversation. See Bayle, art. Helène.

[2] This ode is a very animated description of a picture of Venus on a discus, which represented the goddess in her first emergence from the waves. About two centuries after our poet wrote, the pencil of the artist Apelles embellished this subject, in his famous painting of the Venus Anadyomené, the model of which, as Pliny informs us, was the beautiful Campaspe, given to him by Alexander; though, according to Natalis Comes, lib. vii. cap. 16., it was Phryne who sat to Apelles for the face and breast of this Venus.

There are a few blemishes in the reading of the ode before us, which have influenced Faber, Heyne, Brunck, &c. to denounce the whole poem as spurious. But, "non ego paucis offendar maculis." I think it is quite beautiful enough to be authentic.

[3] *Whose was the artist hand that spread*
Upon this disk the ocean's bed?] The abruptness of αρα τις τοξευσε πουτον is finely expressive of sudden admiration, and is one of those beauties which we cannot but admire in their source, though, by frequent imitation, they are now become familiar and unimpressive.

[4] *And all that mystery loves to screen,*
Fancy, like Faith, adores unseen, &c.] The picture here has all the delicate character of the semi-reducta Venus, and affords a happy specimen of what the poetry of passion *ought* to be—glowing but through a veil, and stealing upon the heart from concealment. Few of the ancients have attained this modesty of description, which, like the golden cloud that hung over Jupiter and Juno, is impervious to every beam but that of fancy.

[5] *Her bosom, like the dew-wash'd rose, &c.*] "Ροδιαν (says an anonymous annotator) is a whimsical epithet for the bosom." Neither Catullus nor Gray have been of his opinion. The former has the expression,

En hic in roseis latet papillis

And the latter,

Lo! where the rosy-bosom'd hours, &c.

Crottus, a modern Latinist, might indeed be censured for too vague a use of the epithet "rosy," when he applies it to the eyes:—"e roseis oculis."

[6] ——— *young Desire, &c.*] In the original Ἱμερος, who was the same deity with Jocus among the Romans. Aurelius Augurellus has a poem beginning—

Invitat olim Bacchus ad cœnam suos
Comon, Jocum, Cupidinem.

Which Parnell has closely imitated:—

Gay Bacchus, liking Estcourt's wine,
A noble meal bespoke us;
And for the guests that were to dine,
Brought Comus, Love, and Jocus, &c.

While, glittering through the silver waves,
The tenants of the briny caves
Around the pomp their gambols play,
And gleam along the watery way.

ODE LVIII.[1]

When Gold, as fleet as zephyr's pinion,
Escapes like any faithless minion,[2]
And flies me (as he flies me ever),[3]
Do I pursue him? never, never!
No, let the false deserter go,
For who could court his direst foe?
But, when I feel my lighten'd mind
No more by grovelling gold confin'd,
Then loose I all such clinging cares,
And cast them to the vagrant airs.
Then feel I, too, the Muse's spell,
And wake to life the dulcet shell,
Which, rous'd once more, to beauty sings,
While love dissolves along the strings!

But scarcely has my heart been taught
How little Gold deserves a thought,
When, lo! the slave returns once more,
And with him wafts delicious store
Of racy wine, whose genial art
In slumber seals the anxious heart.
Again he tries my soul to sever
From love and song, perhaps for ever!

Away, deceiver! why pursuing
Ceaseless thus my heart's undoing?
Sweet is the song of amorous fire,
Sweet the sighs that thrill the lyre;
Oh! sweeter far than all the gold
Thy wings can waft, thy mines can hold.
Well do I know thy arts, thy wiles—
They wither'd Love's young wreathed smiles;
And o'er his lyre such darkness shed,
I thought its soul of song was fled!
They dash'd the wine-cup, that, by him,
Was fill'd with kisses to the brim.[4]
Go—fly to haunts of sordid men,
But come not near the bard again.
Thy glitter in the Muse's shade,
Scares from her bower the tuneful maid;
And not for worlds would I forego
That moment of poetic glow,
When my full soul, in Fancy's stream,
Pours o'er the lyre its swelling theme.
Away, away! to worldlings hence,
Who feel not this diviner sense;
Give gold to those who love that pest,—
But leave the poet poor and blest.

ODE LIX.[5]

Ripen'd by the solar beam,
Now the ruddy clusters teem,
In osier baskets borne along
By all the festal vintage throng

[1] I have followed Barnes's arrangement of this ode, which, though deviating somewhat from the Vatican MS., appears to me the more natural order.

[2] *When Gold, as fleet as zephyr's pinion,*
Escapes like any faithless minion, &c.] In the original Ὁ δραπετης ὁ χρυσος. There is a kind of pun in these words, as Madame Dacier has already remarked; for Chrysos, which signifies gold, was also a frequent name for a slave. In one of Lucian's dialogues, there is, I think, a similar play upon the word, where the followers of Chrysippus are called golden fishes. The puns of the ancients are, in general, even more vapid than our own; some of the best are those recorded of Diogenes.

[3] *And flies me (as he flies me ever,) &c.*] Και δ', ωσι με φευγει. This grace of iteration has already been taken notice of. Though sometimes merely a playful beauty, it is peculiarly expressive of impassioned sentiment, and we may easily believe that it was one of the many sources of that energetic sensibility which breathed through the style of Sappho. See Gyrald. Vet. Poet. Dial. 9. It will not be said that this is a mechanical ornament by any one who can feel its charm in those lines of Catullus, where he complains of the infidelity of his mistress, Lesbia:—

Cœli, Lesbia nostra, Lesbia illa,
Illa Lesbia, quam Catullus unam,
Plus quam se atque suos amavit omnes,
Nunc, &c.

Si sic omnia dixisset!—but the rest does not bear citation.

[4] *They dash'd the wine-cup, that, by him,*
Was fill'd with kisses to the brim.] Original:—

Φιλημασιν δε πιδναν,
Πεθων κυπελλα πιεινης.

Horace has "Desiderique temperare poculum," not figuratively, however, like Anacreon, but importing the love-philtres of the witches. By "cups of kisses" our poet may allude to a favourite gallantry among the ancients, of drinking when the lips of their mistresses had touched the brim:—

"Or leave a kiss within the cup,
And I'll not ask for wine."

As in Ben Jonson's translation from Philostratus; and Lucian has a conceit upon the same idea, "Ἱνα και πινης αμα και φιλης," "that you may at once both drink and kiss."

[5] The title Επιληνιος ὑμνος, which Barnes has given to this ode, is by no means appropriate. We have already had one of those hymns (ode 56.), but this is a description of the vintage; and the title εις οινον, which it bears in the Vatican MS., is more correct than any that have been suggested.

Degen, in the true spirit of literary scepticism, doubts that this ode is genuine, without assigning any reason for such a suspicion;—"non amo te, Sabidi, nec possum dicere quare." But this is far from being satisfactory criticism.

Of rosy youths and virgins fair,
Ripe as the melting fruits they bear.
Now, now they press the pregnant grapes,
And now the captive stream escapes,
In fervid tide of nectar gushing,
And for its bondage proudly blushing!
While, round the vat's impurpled brim,
The choral song, the vintage hymn
Of rosy youths and virgins fair,
Steals on the charm'd and echoing air.
Mark, how they drink, with all their eyes,
The orient tide that sparkling flies,
The infant Bacchus, born in mirth,
While Love stands by, to hail the birth.

When he, whose verging years decline
As deep into the vale as mine,
When he inhales the vintage-cup,
His feet, new-wing'd from earth spring up,
And as he dances, the fresh air
Plays whispering through his silvery hair.
Meanwhile young groups whom love invites,
To joys ev'n rivalling wine's delights,
Seek, arm in arm, the shadowy grove,
And there, in words and looks of love,
Such as fond lovers look and say,
Pass the sweet moonlight hours away. [1]

ODE LX. [2]

AWAKE to life, my sleeping shell,
To Phœbus let thy numbers swell;
And though no glorious prize be thine,
No Pythian wreath around thee twine,
Yet every hour is glory's hour
To him who gathers wisdom's flower.
Then wake thee from thy voiceless slumbers,
And to the soft and Phrygian numbers,
Which, tremblingly, my lips repeat,
Send echoes from thy chord as sweet.
'Tis thus the swan, with fading notes,
Down the Cayster's current floats,
While amorous breezes linger round,
And sigh responsive sound for sound.

Muse of the Lyre! illume my dream,
Thy Phœbus is my fancy's theme;
And hallow'd is the harp I bear,
And hallow'd is the wreath I wear,
Hallow'd by him, the god of lays,
Who modulates the choral maze.
I sing the love which Daphne twin'd
Around the godhead's yielding mind;
I sing the blushing Daphne's flight
From this ethereal son of Light;
And how the tender, timid maid
Flew trembling to the kindly shade, [3]
Resign'd a form, alas, too fair,
And grew a verdant laurel there;
Whose leaves, with sympathetic thrill,
In terror seem'd to tremble still!
The god pursu'd, with wing'd desire;
And when his hopes were all on fire,
And when to clasp the nymph he thought,
A lifeless tree was all he caught;
And, stead of sighs that pleasure heaves,
Heard but the west-wind in the leaves!

But, pause, my soul, no more, no more —
Enthusiast, whither do I soar?
This sweetly-mad'ning dream of soul
Hath hurried me beyond the goal.
Why should I sing the mighty darts
Which fly to wound celestial hearts,
When ah, the song, with sweeter tone,
Can tell the darts that wound my own?
Still be Anacreon, still inspire
The descant of the Teian lyre: [4]

[1] Those well acquainted with the original need hardly be reminded that, in these few concluding verses, I have thought right to give only the general meaning of my author, leaving the details untouched.

[2] This hymn to Apollo is supposed not to have been written by Anacreon; and it is undoubtedly rather a sublimer flight than the Teian wing is accustomed to soar. But, in a poet of whose works so small a proportion has reached us, diversity of style is by no means a safe criterion. If we knew Horace but as a satirist, should we easily believe there could dwell such animation in his lyre? Suidas says that our poet wrote hymns, and this perhaps is one of them. We can perceive in what an altered and imperfect state his works are at present, when we find a scholiast upon Horace citing an ode from the third book of Anacreon.

[3] *And how the tender, timid maid*
Flew trembling to the kindly shade, &c.] Original: —

Το μεν εκπεφευγε κεντρον,
Φυσεως δ' αμειψε μορφην.

I find the word κεντρον here has a double force, as it also signifies that "omnium parentem, quam sanctus Numa, &c. &c." (See Martial.) In order to confirm this import of the word here, those who are curious in new readings, may place the stop after φυσεως, thus: —

Το μεν εκπεφευγε κεντρον
Φυσεως, δ' αμειψε μορφην.

[4] *Still be Anacreon, still inspire*
The descant of the Teian lyre:] The original is Τον Ανακρεοντα μιμου. I have translated it under the supposition that the hymn is by Anacreon; though, I fear, from this very line, that his claim to it can scarcely be supported.

Τον Ανακρεοντα μιμου, "Imitate Anacreon." Such is the lesson given us by the lyrist; and if, in poetry, a simple elegance of sentiment, enriched by the most playful felicities of

Still let the nectar'd numbers float,
Distilling love in every note!
And when some youth, whose glowing soul
Has felt the Paphian star's control,
When he the liquid lays shall hear,
His heart will flutter to his ear,
And drinking there of song divine,
Banquet on intellectual wine! [1]

ODE LXI.[2]

YOUTH's endearing charms are fled;
Hoary locks deform my head;
Bloomy graces, dalliance gay,
All the flowers of life decay.[3]
Withering age begins to trace
Sad memorials o'er my face;

Time has shed its sweetest bloom,
All the future must be gloom.
This it is that sets me sighing;
Dreary is the thought of dying![4]
Lone and dismal is the road,
Down to Pluto's dark abode;
And, when once the journey's o'er,
Ah! we can return no more![5]

ODE LXII.[6]

FILL me, boy, as deep a draught,
As e'er was fill'd, as e'er was quaff'd;
But let the water amply flow,
To cool the grape's intemperate glow;[7]
Let not the fiery god be single,
But with the nymphs in union mingle.

fancy, be a charm which invites or deserves imitation, where shall we find such a guide as Anacreon? In morality, too, with some little reserve, we need not blush, I think, to follow in his footsteps. For, if his song be the language of his heart, though luxurious and relaxed, he was artless and benevolent: and who would not forgive a few irregularities, when atoned for by virtues so rare and so endearing? When we think of the sentiment in those lines —

Away! I hate the sland'rous dart,
Which steals to wound th' unwary heart,

how many are there in the world, to whom we would wish to say, Τον Ανακρεοντα μιμου!

[1] Here ends the last of the odes in the Vatican MS., whose authority helps to confirm the genuine antiquity of them all, though a few have stolen among the number, which we may hesitate in attributing to Anacreon. In the little essay prefixed to this translation, I observed that Barnes has quoted this manuscript incorrectly, relying upon an imperfect copy of it, which Isaac Vossius had taken. I shall just mention two or three instances of this inaccuracy — the first which occur to me. In the ode of the Dove, on the words Πτερυσι συγκαλυψω, he says, "Vatican MS. συσκιαζων, etiam Prisciano invito:" but the MS. reads συνκαλυψω, with συσκιασω interlined. Degen too, on the same line, is somewhat in error. In the twenty-second ode of this series, line thirteenth, the MS. has τινιη with αι interlined, and Barnes imputes to it the reading of τινδη. In the fifty-seventh, line twelfth, he professes to have preserved the reading of the MS. Αλαλημενη δ' ιστ' αυτη, while the latter has αλαλημενος δ' ιστ' αυτα. Almost all the other annotators have transplanted these errors from Barnes.

[2] The intrusion of this melancholy ode, among the careless levities of our poet, reminds us of the skeletons which the Egyptians used to hang up in their banquet-rooms, to inculcate a thought of mortality even amidst the dissipations of mirth. If it were not for the beauty of its numbers, the Teian Muse should disown this ode. "Quid habet illius, illius quæ spirabat amores?"

To Stobæus we are indebted for it.

[3] *Bloomy graces, dalliance gay,*
All the flowers of life decay.] Horace often, with feeling and elegance, deplores the fugacity of human enjoyments. See book ii. ode 11.; and thus in the second epistle, book ii.:—

Singula de nobis anni prædantur euntes;
Eripuere jocos, venerem, convivia, ludum.

The wing of every passing day
Withers some blooming joy away;
And wafts from our enamour'd arms
The banquet's mirth, the virgin's charms.

[4] *Dreary is the thought of dying!* &c.] Regnier, a libertine French poet, has written some sonnets on the approach of death, full of gloomy and trembling repentance. Chaulieu, however, supports more consistently the spirit of the Epicurean philosopher. See his poem, addressed to the Marquis de Lafare —

Plus j'approche du terme et moins je le redoute, &c.

[5] *And, when once the journey's o'er,*
Ah! we can return no more!] Scaliger, upon Catullus's well-known lines, "Qui nunc it per iter, &c." remarks that Acheron, with the same idea, is called ανεξοδος by Theocritus, and δυσκελεθρος by Nicander.

[6] This ode consists of two fragments, which are to be found in Athenæus, book x., and which Barnes, from the similarity of their tendency, has combined into one. I think this a very justifiable liberty, and have adopted it in some other fragments of our poet.

Degen refers us here to verses of Uz, lib. iv., "der Trinker."

[7] *But let the water amply flow,*
To cool the grape's intemperate glow; &c.] It was Amphictyon who first taught the Greeks to mix water with their wine; in commemoration of which circumstance they erected altars to Bacchus and the nymphs. On this mythological allegory the following epigram is founded:

Ardentem ex utero Semeles lavère Lyæum
Naiades, extincto fulminis igne sacri;
Cum nymphis igitur tractabilis, at sine nymphis
Candenti rursus fulmine corripitur.
PIERIUS VALERIANUS.

Which is, non verbum verbo,—

While heavenly fire consum'd his Theban dame,
A Naiad caught young Bacchus from the flame,
And dipp'd him burning in her purest lymph;
Hence, still he loves the Naiad's crystal urn,
And when his native fires too fiercely burn,
Seeks the cool waters of the fountain-nymph.

For though the bowl's the grave of sadness,
Ne'er let it be the birth of madness.
No, banish from our board to-night
The revelries of rude delight;
To Scythians leave these wild excesses,
Ours be the joy that soothes and blesses!
And while the temperate bowl we wreathe,
In concert let our voices breathe,
Beguiling every hour along
With harmony of soul and song.

ODE LXIII.[1]

To Love, the soft and blooming child,
I touch the harp in descant wild;
To Love, the babe of Cyprian bowers,
The boy, who breathes and blushes flowers;
To Love, for heaven and earth adore him,
And gods and mortals bow before him!

ODE LXIV.[2]

Haste thee, nymph, whose well-aim'd spear
Wounds the fleeting mountain-deer!
Dian, Jove's immortal child,
Huntress of the savage wild!
Goddess with the sun-bright hair!
Listen to a people's prayer.
Turn, to Lethe's river turn,
There thy vanquish'd people mourn![3]
Come to Lethe's wavy shore,
Tell them they shall mourn no more.
Thine their hearts, their altars thine;
Must they, Dian — must they pine?

ODE LXV.[4]

Like some wanton filly sporting,
Maid of Thrace, thou fly'st my courting.
Wanton filly! tell me why
Thou trip'st away, with scornful eye,
And seem'st to think my doating heart
Is novice in the bridling art?
Believe me, girl, it is not so;
Thou'lt find this skilful hand can throw
The reins around that tender form,
However wild, however warm.
Yes — trust me I can tame thy force,
And turn and wind thee in the course.
Though, wasting now thy careless hours,
Thou sport amid the herbs and flowers,
Soon shalt thou feel the rein's control,
And tremble at the wish'd-for goal!

ODE LXVI.[5]

To thee, the Queen of nymphs divine,
Fairest of all that fairest shine;
To thee, who rul'st with darts of fire
This world of mortals, young Desire!

[1] "This fragment is preserved in Clemens Alexandrinus, Strom. lib. vi. and in Arsenius, Collect. Græc." — *Barnes.*

It appears to have been the opening of a hymn in praise of Love.

[2] This hymn to Diana is extant in Hephæstion. There is an anecdote of our poet, which has led some to doubt whether he ever wrote any odes of this kind. It is related by the Scholiast upon Pindar (Isthmionic. od. ii. v. 1. as cited by Barnes) that Anacreon being asked, why he addressed all his hymns to women, and none to the deities? answered, "Because women are my deities."

I have assumed, it will be seen, in reporting this anecdote, the same liberty which I have thought it right to take in translating some of the odes; and it were to be wished that these little infidelities were always allowable in interpreting the writings of the ancients; thus, when nature is forgotten in the original, in the translation "tamen usque recurret."

[3] *Turn, to Lethe's river turn,*
There thy vanquish'd people mourn!] Lethe, a river of Ionia, according to Strabo, falling into the Meander. In its neighbourhood was the city called Magnesia, in favour of whose inhabitants our poet is supposed to have addressed this supplication to Diana. It was written (as Madame Dacier conjectures) on the occasion of some battle, in which the Magnesians had been defeated.

[4] This ode, which is addressed to some Thracian girl, exists in Heraclides, and has been imitated very frequently by Horace, as all the annotators have remarked. Madame Dacier rejects the allegory, which runs so obviously through the poem, and supposes it to have been addressed to a young mare belonging to Polycrates.

Pierius, in the fourth book of his Hieroglyphics, cites this ode, and informs us that the horse was the hieroglyphical emblem of pride.

[5] This ode is introduced in the Romance of Theodorus Prodromus, and is that kind of epithalamium which was sung like a scolium at the nuptial banquet.

Among the many works of the impassioned Sappho, of which time and ignorant superstition have deprived us, the loss of her epithalamiums is not one of the least that we deplore. The following lines are cited as a relic of one of those poems: —

Ολβιε γαμβρε. σοι μεν δη γαμος ὡς αραο,
Εκτετελεστ', εχεις δε παρθενον αν αραο.

See Scaliger, in his Poetics, on the Epithalamium.

And oh! thou nuptial Power, to thee
Who bear'st of life the guardian key,
Breathing my soul in fervent praise,
And weaving wild my votive lays,
For thee, O Queen! I wake the lyre,
For thee, thou blushing young Desire,
And oh! for thee, thou nuptial Power,
Come, and illume this genial hour.

Look on thy bride, too happy boy,
And while thy lambent glance of joy
Plays over all her blushing charms,
Delay not, snatch her to thine arms,
Before the lovely, trembling prey,
Like a young birdling, wing away!
Turn, Stratocles, too happy youth,
Dear to the Queen of amorous truth,
And dear to her, whose yielding zone
Will soon resign her all thine own.
Turn to Myrilla, turn thine eye,
Breathe to Myrilla, breathe thy sigh.
To those bewitching beauties turn;
For thee they blush, for thee they burn.

Not more the rose, the queen of flowers,
Outblushes all the bloom of bowers,
Than she unrivall'd grace discloses,
The sweetest rose, where all are roses.
Oh! may the sun, benignant, shed
His blandest influence o'er thy bed;
And foster there an infant tree,
To bloom like her, and tower like thee![1]

ODE LXVII.[2]

Rich in bliss, I proudly scorn
The wealth of Amalthea's horn;
Nor should I ask to call the throne
Of the Tartessian prince my own;[3]
To totter through his train of years,
The victim of declining fears.
One little hour of joy to me
Is worth a dull eternity!

ODE LXVIII.[4]

Now Neptune's month our sky deforms,
The angry night-cloud teems with storms;
And savage winds, infuriate driven,
Fly howling in the face of heaven!
Now, now, my friends, the gathering gloom
With roseate rays of wine illume:
And while our wreaths of parsley spread
Their fadeless foliage round our head,
Let's hymn th' almighty power of wine,
And shed libations on his shrine!

ODE LXIX.[5]

They wove the lotus band to deck
And fan with pensile wreath each neck;
And every guest, to shade his head,
Three little fragrant chaplets spread;[6]

---

[1] *And foster there an infant tree,*
To bloom like her, and tower like thee!] Original Κυπαριττος δε πεφυκοι σευ ενι κηπω. Passeratius, upon the words "cum castum amisit florem," in the Nuptial Song of Catullus, after explaining "flos" in somewhat a similar sense to that which Gaulminus attributes to ῥοδον, says, "Hortum quoque vocant in quo flos ille carpitur, et Græcis κηπον εστι το εφηβαιον γυναικων."

I may remark, in passing, that the author of the Greek version of this charming ode of Catullus, has neglected a most striking and anacreontic beauty in those verses "Ut flos in septis, &c." which is the repetition of the line, "Multi illum pueri, multæ optavère puellæ," with the slight alteration of nulli and nullæ. Catullus himself, however, has been equally injudicious in his version of the famous ode of Sappho; having translated γελωσας ἱμεροεν, but omitted all notice of the accompanying charm, ἁδυ φωνουσας. Horace has caught the spirit of it more faithfully:—

Dulce ridentem Lalagen amabo,
Dulce loquentem.

[2] This fragment is preserved in the third book of Strabo.

[3] *Of the Tartessian prince my own;*] He here alludes to Arganthonius, who lived, according to Lucian, an hundred and fifty years; and reigned, according to Herodotus, eighty. See Barnes.

[4] This is composed of two fragments; the seventieth and eighty-first in Barnes. They are both found in Eustathius.

[5] Three fragments form this little ode, all of which are preserved in Athenæus. They are the eighty-second, seventy-fifth, and eighty-third, in Barnes.

[6] *And every guest, to shade his head,*
Three little fragrant chaplets spread;] Longepierre, to give an idea of the luxurious estimation in which garlands were held by the ancients, relates an anecdote of a courtezan, who, in order to gratify three lovers, without leaving cause for jealousy with any of them, gave a kiss to one, let the other drink after her, and put a garland on the brow of the third; so that each was satisfied with his favour, and flattered himself with the preference.

This circumstance resembles very much the subject of one of the *tensons* of Savari de Mauléon, a troubadour. See L'Histoire Littéraire des Troubadours. The recital is a curious picture of the puerile gallantries of chivalry.

And one was of th' Egyptian leaf,
The rest were roses, fair and brief:
While from a golden vase profound,
To all on flowery beds around,
A Hebe, of celestial shape,
Pour'd the rich droppings of the grape!

ODE LXX.[1]

A BROKEN cake, with honey sweet,
Is all my spare and simple treat:
And while a generous bowl I crown
To float my little banquet down,
I take the soft, the amorous lyre,
And sing of love's delicious fire:
In mirthful measures warm and free,
I sing, dear maid, and sing for thee!

ODE LXXI.[2]

WITH twenty chords my lyre is hung,
And while I wake them all for thee,
Thou, O maiden, wild and young,
Disport'st in airy levity.

The nursling fawn, that in some shade
Its antler'd mother leaves behind,[3]
Is not more wantonly afraid,
More timid of the rustling wind!

ODE LXXII.[4]

FARE thee well, perfidious maid,
My soul, too long on earth delay'd,
Delay'd, perfidious girl, by thee,
Is on the wing for liberty.
I fly to seek a kindlier sphere,
Since thou hast ceas'd to love me here!

ODE LXXIII.[5]

AWHILE I bloom'd, a happy flower,
Till Love approach'd one fatal hour,
And made my tender branches feel
The wounds of his avenging steel.
Then lost I fell, like some poor willow
That falls across the wintry billow!

ODE LXXIV.[6]

MONARCH Love, resistless boy,
With whom the rosy Queen of Joy,
And nymphs, whose eyes have Heaven's hue,
Disporting tread the mountain-dew;
Propitious, oh! receive my sighs,
Which, glowing with entreaty, rise,
That thou wilt whisper to the breast
Of her I love thy soft behest;
And counsel her to learn from thee,
That lesson thou hast taught to me.
Ah! if my heart no flattery tell,
Thou'lt own I've learn'd that lesson well!

ODE LXXV.[7]

SPIRIT of Love, whose locks unroll'd,
Stream on the breeze like floating gold;

[1] Compiled by Barnes, from Athenæus, Hephæstion, and Arsenius. See Barnes, 80th.

[2] This I have formed from the eighty-fourth and eighty-fifth of Barnes's edition. The two fragments are found in Athenæus.

[3] *The nursling fawn, that in some shade*
Its antler'd mother leaves behind, &c.] In the original:—

Ὅς ἐν ὕλῃ κεροέσσης
Ἀπολειφθεὶς ὑπο μητρὸς.

"Horned" here, undoubtedly, seems a strange epithet; Madame Dacier however observes, that Sophocles, Callimachus, &c. have all applied it in the very same manner, and she seems to agree in the conjecture of the scholiast upon Pindar, that perhaps horns are not always peculiar to the males. I think we may with more ease conclude it to be a license of the poet, "jussit habere puellam cornua."

[4] This fragment is preserved by the scholiast upon Aristophanes, and is the eighty-seventh in Barnes.

[5] This is to be found in Hephæstion, and is the eighty-ninth of Barnes's edition.

I have omitted, from among these scraps, a very considerable fragment imputed to our poet, Ξανθη δ' Ενευτυλη μελαι, &c. which is preserved in the twelfth book of Athenæus, and is the ninety-first in Barnes. If it was really Anacreon who wrote it, "nil fuit unquam sic impar sibi." It is in a style of gross satire, and abounds with expressions that never could be gracefully translated.

[6] A fragment preserved by Dion Chrysostom. Orat. ii. de Regno. See Barnes, 93.

[7] This fragment, which is extant in Athenæus (Barnes, 101.), is supposed, on the authority of Chamæleon, to have been addressed to Sappho. We have also a stanza attributed to her, which some romancers have supposed to be her answer to Anacreon. "Mais par malheur (as Bayle says), Sappho vint au monde environ cent ou six vingt ans avant Anacréon." —*Nouvelles de la Rép. des Lett.* tom. ii. de Novembre, 1684. The following is her fragment, the compliment of which is

Come, within a fragrant cloud
Blushing with light, thy votary shroud ;
And, on those wings that sparkling play,
Waft, oh, waft me hence away!
Love! my soul is full of thee,
Alive to all thy luxury.
But she, the nymph for whom I glow,
The lovely Lesbian mocks my woe;
Smiles at the chill and hoary hues,
That time upon my forehead strews.
Alas! I fear she keeps her charms,
In store for younger, happier arms!

ODE LXXVI.[1]

HITHER, gentle Muse of mine,
Come and teach thy votary old
Many a golden hymn divine,
For the nymph with vest of gold.

Pretty nymph, of tender age,
Fair thy silky locks unfold ;
Listen to a hoary sage,
Sweetest maid with vest of gold!

ODE LXXVII.[2]

WOULD that I were a tuneful lyre,
Of burnish'd ivory fair,
Which, in the Dionysian choir,
Some blooming boy should bear!

Would that I were a golden vase,
That some bright nymph might hold
My spotless frame, with blushing grace,
Herself as pure as gold!

ODE LXXVIII.[3]

WHEN Cupid sees how thickly now,
The snows of Time fall o'er my brow,
Upon his wing of golden light,
He passes with an eaglet's flight,
And flitting onward seems to say,
"Fare thee well, thou'st had thy day!"

CUPID, whose lamp has lent the ray,
That lights our life's meandering way,
That God, within this bosom stealing,
Hath waken'd a strange, mingled feeling,
Which pleases, though so sadly teasing,
And teases, though so sweetly pleasing![4]

LET me resign this wretched breath,
Since now remains to me
No other balm than kindly death,
To soothe my misery![5]

I KNOW thou lov'st a brimming measure,
And art a kindly, cordial host;
But let me fill and drink at pleasure —
Thus I enjoy the goblet most.[6]

I FEAR that love disturbs my rest,
Yet feel not love's impassion'd care ;
I think there's madness in my breast,
Yet cannot find that madness there![7]

finely imagined; she supposes that the Muse has dictated the verses of Anacreon:—

Κεινον, ω χρυσοθρονε Μουσ' ειπουσης
Υμνον, εκ της καλλιγυναικος εσθλας
Τηιος χωρας ον αειδε τερπνως
Πεισθους αγαυος.

Oh Muse! who sit'st on golden throne
Full many a hymn of witching tone
The Teian sage is taught by thee!
But, Goddess, from thy throne of gold,
The sweetest hymn thou'st ever told,
He lately learn'd and sung for me.

[1] Formed of the 124th and 119th fragments in Barnes, both of which are to be found in Scaliger's Poetics.

De Pauw thinks that those detached lines and couplets, which Scaliger has adduced as examples in his Poetics, are by no means authentic, but of his own fabrication.

[2] This is generally inserted among the remains of Alcæus. Some, however, have attributed it to Anacreon. See our poet's twenty-second ode, and the notes.

[3] See Barnes, 173d. This fragment, to which I have taken the liberty of adding a turn not to be found in the original, is cited by Lucian in his short essay on the Gallic Hercules.

[4] Barnes, 125th. This is in Scaliger's Poetics. Gail has omitted it in his collection of fragments.

[5] This fragment is extant in Arsenius and Hephæstion. See Barnes (69th), who has arranged the metre of it very skilfully.

[6] Barnes, 72d. This fragment, which is found in Athenæus, contains an excellent lesson for the votaries of Jupiter Hospitalis.

[7] Found in Hephæstion (see Barnes, 95th), and reminds one somewhat of the following:—

From dread Leucadia's frowning steep,
I'll plunge into the whitening deep:
And there lie cold, to death resign'd,
Since Love intoxicates my mind![1]

Mix me, child, a cup divine,
Crystal water, ruby wine:
Weave the frontlet, richly flushing,
O'er my wintry temples blushing.
Mix the brimmer — Love and I
Shall no more the contest try.
Here — upon this holy bowl,
I surrender all my soul![2]

Among the Epigrams of the Anthologia, are found some panegyrics on Anacreon, which I had translated, and originally intended as a sort of Coronis to this work. But I found upon consideration, that they wanted variety; and that a frequent recurrence, in them, of the same thought, would render a collection of such poems uninteresting. I shall take the liberty, however, of subjoining a few, selected from the number, that I may not appear to have totally neglected those ancient tributes to the fame of Anacreon. The four epigrams which I give are imputed to Antipater Sidonius. They are rendered, perhaps, with too much freedom; but designing originally a translation of all that are extant on the subject, I endeavoured to enliven their uniformity by sometimes indulging in the liberties of paraphrase.

ΑΝΤΙΠΑΤΡΟΥ ΣΙΔΩΝΙΟΥ, ΕΙΣ ΑΝΑΚΡΕΟΝΤΑ.

ΘΑΛΛΟΙ τετρακορυμβος, Ανακρεον, αμφι σε κισσος
ἁβρα τε λειμωνων πορφυρεων πεταλα
πηγαι δ' αργινοεντος αναθλιβοιντο γαλακτος,
ενωδες δ' απο γης ἡδυ χεοιτο μεθυ,
οφρα κε τοι σποδιη τε και οστεα τερψιν αρηται,
ει δε τις φθιμενοις χριπτεται ευφροσυνα,
ω του φιλον στερξας, φιλε, βαρβιτον, ω συν αοιδα
παντα διαπλωσας και συν ερωτι βιον.

Around the tomb, oh, bard divine!
Where soft thy hallow'd brow reposes,
Long may the deathless ivy twine,
And summer spread her waste of roses!

And there shall many a fount distil,
And many a rill refresh the flowers;
But wine shall be each purple rill,
And every fount be milky showers.

Thus, shade of him, whom Nature taught
To tune his lyre and soul to pleasure,
Who gave to love his tenderest thought,
Who gave to love his fondest measure, —

Thus, after death, if shades can feel,
Thou may'st, from odours round thee streaming,
A pulse of past enjoyment steal,
And live again in blissful dreaming![3]

Odi et amo; quare id faciam fortasse requiris;
Nescio: sed fieri sentio, et excrucior. Carm. 53.

I love thee and hate thee, but if I can tell
The cause of my love and my hate, may I die.
I can feel it, alas! I can feel it too well,
That I love thee and hate thee, but cannot tell why.

[1] This is also in Hephæstion, and perhaps is a fragment of some poem, in which Anacreon had commemorated the fate of Sappho. It is the 123d of Barnes.

[2] Collected by Barnes, from Demetrius Phalareus and Eustathius, and subjoined in his edition to the epigrams attributed to our poet. And here is the last of those little scattered flowers, which I thought I might venture with any grace to transplant; — happy if it could be said of the garland which they form, Το δ' ωζ' Ανακρεοντος.

[3] Antipater Sidonius, the author of this epigram, lived, according to Vossius, de Poetis Græcis, in the second year of the 169th Olympiad. He appears, from what Cicero and Quintilian have said of him, to have been a kind of improvisatore. See Institut. Orat. lib. x. cap. 7. There is nothing more known respecting this poet, except some particulars about his illness and death, which are mentioned as curious by Pliny and others; — and there remain of his works but a few epigrams in the Anthologia, among which are found these inscriptions upon Anacreon. These remains have been sometimes imputed to another poet[a] of the same name, of whom Vossius gives us the following account: — "Antipater Thessalonicensis vixit tempore Augusti Cæsaris, ut qui saltantem viderit Pyladem, sicut constat ex quodam ejus epigrammate Ανθολογιας, lib. iv. tit. εις ορχιστηριδας. At eum ac Bathyllum primos fuisse pantomimos ac sub Augusto claruisse, satis notum ex Dione, &c. &c."

The reader, who thinks it worth observing, may find a strange oversight in Hoffman's quotation of this article from Vossius, Lexic. Univers. By the omission of a sentence he has made Vossius assert that the poet Antipater was one of the first pantomime dancers in Rome.

Barnes, upon the epigram before us, mentions a version of it by Brodæus, which is not to be found in that commentator; but he more than once confounds Brodæus with another annotator on the Anthologia, Vincentius Obsopœus, who has given a translation of the epigram.

[a] Pleraque tamen Thessalonicensi tribuenda videntur. — *Brunck, Lectiones et Emendat.*

ΤΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΥ, ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΝ.

ΤΥΜΒΟΣ Ανακρειοντος. ὁ Τηϊος ενθαδε κυκνος
Εὑδει, χὴ παιδων ζωροτατη μανιη.
Ακμην λειριοεντι μελιζεται αμφι Βαθυλλω
Ἱμερα· και κισσου λευκος οδωδε λιθος.
Ουδ' Αἴδης σοι ερωτας απεσβεσεν, εν δ' Αχεροντος
Ων, ὁλος ωδινεις Κυπριδι Θερμοτερη.

HERE sleeps Anacreon, in this ivied shade;
Here mute in death the Teian swan is laid.[1]
Cold, cold that heart, which while on earth it dwelt
All the sweet frenzy of love's passion felt.
And yet, oh Bard! thou art not mute in death,
Still do we catch thy lyre's luxurious breath;[2]
And still thy songs of soft Bathylla bloom,
Green as the ivy round thy mould'ring tomb.
Nor yet has death obscur'd thy fire of love,
For still it lights thee through the Elysian grove;
Where dreams are thine, that bless th' elect alone,
And Venus calls thee even in death her own!

[1] —— *the Teian swan is laid.*] Thus Horace of Pindar: —

Multa Dircæum levat aura cycnum.

A swan was the hieroglyphical emblem of a poet. Anacreon has been called the swan of Teos by another of his eulogists.

Εν τοις μελιχροις Ἱμεροισι συντροφον
Λυαιος Ανακρεοντα, Τηϊον κυκνον,
Εσφηλας ὑγρη νεκταρος μελῃδονη.
Ευγενους, Ανθολογ.

God of the grape! thou hast betray'd
In wine's bewildering dream,
The fairest swan that ever play'd
Along the Muse's stream! —
The Teian, nurs'd with all those honey'd boys,
The young Desires, light Loves, and rose-lipp'd Joys!

[2] *Still do we catch thy lyre's luxurious breath;*] Thus Simonides, speaking of our poet: —

Μολπης δ' ου λῃθη μελιτερπεος αλλ' ετι κεινο
Βαῤῥιτον ουδε Θανων ευνασεν εις αΐδη.
Σιμωνιδου, Ανθολογ.

Nor yet are all his numbers mute,
Though dark within the tomb he lies;
But living still, his amorous lute
With sleepless animation sighs!

This is the famous Simonides, whom Plato styled "divine," though Le Fevre, in his Poëtes Grecs, supposes that the epigrams under his name are all falsely imputed. The most considerable of his remains is a satirical poem upon women, preserved by Stobæus, ψογος γυναικων.

We may judge from the lines I have just quoted, and the import of the epigram before us, that the works of Anacreon were perfect in the times of Simonides and Antipater. Obsopœus, the commentator here, appears to exult in their destruction, and telling us they were burned by the bishops and patriarchs, he adds, "nec sane id necquicquam fecerunt," attributing to this outrage an effect which it could not possibly have produced.

[3] The spirit of Anacreon is supposed to utter these verses from the tomb, — somewhat "mutatus ab illo," at least in simplicity of expression.

ΤΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΥ, ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΝ.

ΞΕΙΝΕ, ταφον παρα λιτον Ανακρειοντος αμειβων,
Ει τι τοι εκ βιβλων ηλθεν εμων οφελος,
Σπεισον εμη σποδιη, σπεισον γανος, οφρα κεν οινω
Οστεα γηθησε ταμα νοτιζομενα,
Ὡς ὁ Διονυσου μεμελημενος ουασι κωμος,
Ὡς ὁ φιλακρητου συντροφος ἁρμονιης,
Μηδε καταφθιμενος Βακχου διχα τουτον ὑποισω
Τον γενεη μεροπων χωρον οφειλομενον.[3]

OH stranger! if Anacreon's shell
Has ever taught thy heart to swell[4]
With passion's throb or pleasure's sigh,
In pity turn, as wand'ring nigh,
And drop thy goblet's richest tear[5]
In tenderest libation here!
So shall my sleeping ashes thrill
With visions of enjoyment still.
Not even in death can I resign
The festal joys that once were mine,

[4] —— *if Anacreon's shell*
Has ever taught thy heart to swell, &c.] We may guess from the words εκ βιβλων εμων, that Anacreon was not merely a writer of billets-doux, as some French critics have called him. Amongst these Mr. Le Fevre, with all his professed admiration, has given our poet a character by no means of an elevated cast: —

Aussi c'est pour cela que la postérité
L'a toujours justement d'age en age chanté
Comme un franc goguenard, ami de goinfrerie,
Ami de billets-doux et de badinerie.

See the verses prefixed to his Poëtes Grecs. This is unlike the language of Theocritus, to whom Anacreon is indebted for the following simple eulogium: —

ΕΙΣ ΑΝΑΚΡΕΟΝΤΟΣ ΑΝΑΡΙΑΝΤΑ.

Θαασει τον ανδριαντα τουτον, ω ξενε,
σκουδα, και λεγ', ὁταν ες οικον ενθης.
Ανακρεοντος εικον' ειδον εν Τεω,
των περσῃ' ει τι περισσον ωδοποιων.
περσηθεις δε χὠτι τοις νεοισιν ἀδετο,
ερεις ατρεκεως ολον τον ανδρα.

UPON THE STATUE OF ANACREON.

Stranger! who near this statue chance to roam,
Let it awhile your studious eyes engage;
That you may say, returning to your home,
"I've seen the image of the Teian sage,
Best of the bards who deck the Muse's page."
Then, if you add, "That striplings lov'd him well,"
You tell them all he was, and aptly tell.

I have endeavoured to do justice to the simplicity of this inscription by rendering it as literally, I believe, as a verse translation will allow.

[5] *And drop thy goblet's richest tear, &c.*] Thus Simonides, in another of his epitaphs on our poet: —

Και μιν αει τεγγοι νοτιῃ δροσος, ὴς ὁ γεραιος
Λαερτεον μαλακων ειπνευ εκ στοματων.

Let vines, in clust'ring beauty wreath'd,
Drop all their treasures on his head,
Whose lips a dew of sweetness breath'd,
Richer than vine hath ever shed!

When Harmony pursu'd my ways,
And Bacchus wanton'd to my lays.[1]
Oh! if delight could charm no more,
If all the goblet's bliss were o'er,
When fate had once our doom decreed,
Then dying would be death indeed;
Nor could I think, unblest by wine,
Divinity itself divine!

ΤΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΥ, ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΝ.

ΕΥΔΕΙΣ εν φθιμενοισιν, Ανακρεον, εσθλα πονησας
εὐδει δ' ἡ γλυκερη νυκτιλαλος κιθαρα,
εὐδει και Σμερδις, το Ποθων εαρ, ὡ συ μελισδων,
βαρβιτ', ανεκρουου νεκταρ εναρμονιον·
ηϊθεων γαρ Ερωτος εφυς σκοπος· ες δε σε μουνον
τοξα τε και σκολιας ειχεν ἐκηβολιας.

[1] *And Bacchus wanton'd to my lays, &c.*] The original here is corrupted, the line ὡς ὁ Διονυσου, &c. is unintelligible. Brunck's emendation improves the sense, but I doubt if it can be commended for elegance. He reads the line thus: —

ὡς ὁ Διωνυσιο λελασμενος ουποτε κωμων.

See Brunck, Analecta Veter. Poet. Græc. vol. ii.

[2] *Thy harp, that whisper'd through each lingering night, &c.*] In another of these poems, "the nightly-speaking lyre" of the bard is represented as not yet silent even after his death.

ὡς ὁ φιλακρητος τε και οινοβαρης φιλοκωμος
παννυχιος κρουοι[a] την φιλοπαιδα χελυν.
Σιμωνιδου, εις Ανακρεοντα.

To beauty's smile and wine's delight,
To joys he lov'd on earth so well,
Still shall his spirit, all the night,
Attune the wild, aërial shell!

[3] *The purest nectar of its numbers, &c.*] Thus, says Brunck, in the prologue to the satires of Persius: —

Cantare credas Pegaseium nectar.

"Melos" is the usual reading in this line, and Casaubon has defended it; but "nectar" is, I think, much more spirited.

[4] *She, the young spring of thy desires, &c.*] The original, το Ποθων εαρ, is beautiful. We regret that such praise should be lavished so preposterously, and feel that the poet's mistress Eurypyle would have deserved it better. Her name has been told us by Meleager, as already quoted, and in another epigram by Antipater.

ὑγρα δε διεκομενοισιν εν οιμασιν αυλον αειδοις,
αιθυσσων λιπαρης ανθος ὑπερθε κομης,
τη περος Ευρυπυλην τετραμμενος . . . .

Long may the nymph around thee play,
Eurypyle, thy soul's desire,
Basking her beauties in the ray
That lights thine eye's dissolving fire!

[a] Brunck has κρουων; but κρουοι, the common reading, better suits a detached quotation.

At length thy golden hours have wing'd their flight,
And drowsy death that eyelid steepeth;
Thy harp, that whisper'd through each lingering night,[2]
Now mutely in oblivion sleepeth!

She too, for whom that harp profusely shed
The purest nectar of its numbers,[3]
She, the young spring of thy desires, hath fled,
And with her blest Anacreon slumbers![4]

Farewell! thou had'st a pulse for every dart[5]
That mighty Love could scatter from his quiver;
And each new beauty found in thee a heart,
Which thou, with all thy heart and soul, didst give her![6]

Sing of her smile's bewitching power,
Her every grace that warms and blesses;
Sing of her brow's luxuriant flower,
The beaming glory of her tresses.

The expression here, ανθος κομης, "the flower of the hair," is borrowed from Anacreon himself, as appears by a fragment of the poet preserved in Stobæus: Αττικιρας δ' ἁπαλης αμομον ανθος.

[5] *Farewell! thou had'st a pulse for every dart, &c.*] ιφυς σκοπος, "scopus eras naturâ," not "speculator," as Barnes very falsely interprets it.

Vincentius Obsopœus, upon this passage, contrives to indulge us with a little astrological wisdom, and talks in a style of learned scandal about Venus, "male posita cum Marte in domo Saturni."

[6] *And each new beauty found in thee a heart, &c.*] This couplet is not otherwise warranted by the original, than as it dilates the thought which Antipater has figuratively expressed.

Critias, of Athens, pays a tribute to the legitimate gallantry of Anacreon, calling him, with elegant conciseness, γυναικων ηπειροπευμα.

Τον δε γυναικειων μελεων πλεξαντα ποτ' ωδας,
'Ηδυν Ανακρεοντα[b], Τεως εις 'Ελλαδ' ανηγεν,
Συμποσιων ερεθισμα, γυναικων ηπειροπευμα.

Teos gave to Greece her treasure,
Sage Anacreon, sage in loving;
Fondly weaving lays of pleasure
For the maids who blush'd approving.

When in nightly banquets sporting,
Where's the guest could ever fly him?
When with love's seduction courting,
Where's the nymph could e'er deny him?

[b] Thus Scaliger, in his dedicatory verses to Ronsard: —

Blandus, suaviloquus, dulcis Anacreon.

JUVENILE POEMS.

PREFACE,

BY THE EDITOR.*

THE Poems which I take the liberty of publishing, were never intended by the author to pass beyond the circle of his friends. He thought, with some justice, that what are called Occasional Poems must be always insipid and uninteresting to the greater part of their readers. The particular situations in which they were written; the character of the author and of his associates; all these peculiarities must be known and felt before we can enter into the spirit of such compositions. This consideration would have always, I believe, prevented the author himself from submitting these trifles to the eye of dispassionate criticism: and if their posthumous introduction to the world be injustice to his memory, or intrusion on the public, the error must be imputed to the injudicious partiality of friendship.

Mr. LITTLE died in his one and twentieth year; and most of these Poems were written at so early a period that their errors may lay claim to some indulgence from the critic. Their author, as unambitious as indolent, scarce ever looked beyond the moment of composition; but, in general, wrote as he pleased, careless whether he pleased as he wrote. It may likewise be remembered, that they were all the productions of an age when the passions very often give a colouring too warm to the imagination; and this may palliate, if it cannot excuse, that air of levity which pervades so many of them. The "aurea legge, s'ei piace ei lice," he too much pursued, and too much inculcates. Few can regret this more sincerely than myself; and if my friend had lived, the judgment of riper years would have chastened his mind, and tempered the luxuriance of his fancy.

Mr. LITTLE gave much of his time to the study of the amatory writers. If ever he expected to find in the ancients that delicacy of sentiment, and variety of fancy, which are so necessary to refine and animate the poetry of love, he was much disappointed. I know not any one of them who can be regarded as a model in that style; Ovid made love like a rake, and Propertius like a schoolmaster. The mythological allusions of the latter are called erudition by his commentators; but such ostentatious display, upon a subject so simple as love, would be now esteemed vague and puerile, and was even in his own times pedantic. It is astonishing that so many critics should have preferred him to the gentle and touching Tibullus; but those defects, I believe, which a common reader condemns, have been regarded rather as beauties by those erudite men, the commentators; who find a field for their ingenuity and research, in his Grecian learning and quaint obscurities.

Tibullus abounds with touches of fine and natural feeling. The idea of his unexpected return to Delia, "Tunc veniam subito*," &c. is imagined with all the delicate ardour of a lover; and the sentiment of "nec te posse carere velim," however colloquial the expression may have been, is natural, and from the heart. But the poet of Verona, in my opinion, possessed more genuine feeling than any of them. His life was, I believe, unfortunate; his associates were wild and abandoned; and the warmth of his nature took too much advantage of the latitude which the morals of those times so criminally allowed to the passions. All this depraved his imagination, and made it the slave of his senses. But still a native sensibility is often very warmly perceptible; and when he touches the chord of pathos, he reaches immediately the heart. They who have felt the sweets of return to a home from which they have long been absent will confess the beauty of those simple unaffected lines:—

O quid solutis est beatius curis!
Cum mens onus reponit, ac peregrino
Labore fessi venimus Larem ad nostrum
Desideratoque acquiescimus lecto.
Carm. xxix.

His sorrows on the death of his brother are the very tears of poesy; and when he complains of the ingratitude of mankind, even the inexperienced cannot but sympathise with him. I wish I were

* A portion of these Poems were published originally as the works of "the late Thomas Little," with the Preface here given prefixed to them.

* Lib. i. Eleg. 3.

a poet; I should then endeavour to catch, by translation, the spirit of those beauties which I have always so warmly admired.*

It seems to have been peculiarly the fate of Catullus, that the better and more valuable part of his poetry has not reached us; for there is confessedly nothing in his extant works to authorise the epithet "doctus," so universally bestowed upon him by the ancients. If time had suffered his other writings to escape, we perhaps should have found among them some more purely amatory; but of those we possess, can there be a sweeter specimen of warm, yet chastened description, than his loves of Acme and Septimius? and the few little songs of dalliance to Lesbia are distinguished by such an exquisite playfulness, that they have always been assumed as models by the most elegant modern Latinists. Still, it must be confessed, in the midst of all these beauties,

—— Medio de fonte leporum
Surgit amari aliquid, quod in ipsis floribus angat.†

It has often been remarked, that the ancients knew nothing of gallantry; and we are sometimes told there was too much sincerity in their love to allow them to trifle thus with the semblance of passion. But I cannot perceive that they were any thing more constant than the moderns: they felt all the same dissipation of the heart, though they knew not those seductive graces by which gallantry almost teaches it to be amiable. Wotton, the learned advocate for the moderns, deserts them in considering this point of comparison, and praises the ancients for their ignorance of such refinements. But he seems to have collected his notions of gallantry from the insipid *fadeurs* of the French romances, which have nothing congenial with the graceful levity, the "grata protervitas," of a Rochester or a Sedley.

As far as I can judge, the early poets of our own language were the models which Mr. LITTLE selected for imitation. To attain their simplicity ("ævo rarissima nostro simplicitas") was his fondest ambition. He could not have aimed at a grace more difficult of attainment‡; and his life was of too short a date to allow him to perfect such a taste; but how far he was likely to have succeeded, the critic may judge from his productions.

I have found among his papers a novel, in rather an imperfect state, which, as soon as I have arranged and collected it, shall be submitted to the public eye.

Where Mr. LITTLE was born, or what is the genealogy of his parents, are points in which very few readers can be interested. His life was one of those humble streams which have scarcely a name in the map of life, and the traveller may pass it by without inquiring its source or direction. His character was well known to all who were acquainted with him; for he had too much vanity to hide its virtues, and not enough of art to conceal its defects. The lighter traits of his mind may be traced perhaps in his writings; but the few for which he was valued live only in the remembrance of his friends.

T. M.

TO

JOSEPH ATKINSON, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR,

I FEEL a very sincere pleasure in dedicating to you the Second Edition of our friend LITTLE'S Poems. I am not unconscious that there are many in the collection which perhaps it would be prudent to have altered or omitted; and, to say the truth, I more than once revised them for that purpose; but, I know not why, I distrusted either my heart or my judgment; and the consequence is, you have them in their original form:

Non possunt nostros multæ, Faustine, lituræ
Emendare jocos; una litura potest.

I am convinced, however, that, though not quite a *casuiste relâché*, you have charity enough to forgive such inoffensive follies: you know that the pious Beza was not the less revered for those sportive *Juvenilia* which he published under a fictitious name; nor did the levity of Bembo's poems prevent him from making a very good cardinal.

Believe me, my dear Friend,
With the truest esteem,
Yours,
T. M.

* In the following Poems, will be found a translation of one of his finest Carmina; but I fancy it is only a mere schoolboy's essay, and deserves to be praised for little more than the attempt.

† Lucretius.

‡ It is a curious illustration of the labour which simplicity requires, that the Ramblers of Johnson, elaborate as they appear, were written with fluency, and seldom required revision: while the simple language of Rousseau, which seems to come flowing from the heart, was the slow production of painful labour, pausing on every word, and balancing every sentence.

JUVENILE POEMS.

FRAGMENTS OF COLLEGE EXERCISES.

Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus. Juv.

Mark those proud boasters of a splendid line,
Like gilded ruins, mould'ring while they shine,
How heavy sits that weight of alien show,
Like martial helm upon an infant's brow;
Those borrow'd splendours, whose contrasting light
Throws back the native shades in deeper night.

Ask the proud train who glory's shade pursue,
Where are the arts by which that glory grew?
The genuine virtues that with eagle-gaze
Sought young Renown in all her orient blaze!
Where is the heart by chymic truth refin'd,
Th' exploring soul, whose eye had read mankind?
Where are the links that twin'd, with heav'nly art,
His country's interest round the patriot's heart?

* * * * *

Justum bellum quibus necessarium, et pia arma quibus nulla nisi in armis relinquitur spes. — Livy.

* * * * *

Is there no call, no consecrating cause,
Approv'd by Heav'n, ordain'd by nature's laws,
Where justice flies the herald of our way,
And truth's pure beams upon the banners play?

Yes, there's a call sweet as an angel's breath
To slumb'ring babes, or innocence in death;
And urgent as the tongue of Heav'n within,
When the mind's balance trembles upon sin.

Oh! 'tis our country's voice, whose claim should meet
An echo in the soul's most deep retreat;
Along the heart's responding chords should run,
Nor let a tone there vibrate — but the one!

VARIETY.

Ask what prevailing, pleasing power
Allures the sportive, wandering bee
To roam, untired, from flower to flower,
He'll tell you, 'tis variety.

Look Nature round, her features trace,
Her seasons, all her changes see;
And own, upon Creation's face,
The greatest charm's variety.

For me, ye gracious powers above!
Still let me roam, unfix'd and free;
In all things, — but the nymph I love,
I'll change, and taste variety.

But, Patty, not a world of charms
Could e'er estrange my heart from thee; —
No, let me ever seek those arms,
There still I'll find variety.

TO A BOY, WITH A WATCH.

WRITTEN FOR A FRIEND.

Is it not sweet, beloved youth,
To rove through Erudition's bowers,
And cull the golden fruits of truth,
And gather Fancy's brilliant flowers?

And is it not more sweet than this,
To feel thy parents' hearts approving,
And pay them back in sums of bliss
The dear, the endless debt of loving?

It must be so to thee, my youth;
With this idea toil is lighter;
This sweetens all the fruits of truth,
And makes the flower of fancy brighter.

The little gift we send thee, boy,
May sometimes teach thy soul to ponder,
If indolence or siren joy
Should ever tempt that soul to wander.

'Twill tell thee that the winged day
Can ne'er be chain'd by man's endeavour;
That life and time shall fade away,
While heav'n and virtue bloom for ever!

SONG.

If I swear by that eye, you'll allow,
Its look is so shifting and new,
That the oath I might take on it now
The very next glance would undo.

Those babies that nestle so sly
Such thousands of arrows have got,
That an oath, on the glance of an eye
Such as yours, may be off in a shot.

Should I swear by the dew on your lip,
Though each moment the treasure renews,
If my constancy wishes to trip,
I may kiss off the oath when I choose.

Or a sigh may disperse from that flow'r
Both the dew and the oath that are there;
And I'd make a new vow every hour,
To lose them so sweetly in air.

But clear up the heav'n of your brow,
Nor fancy my faith is a feather;
On my heart I will pledge you my vow,
And they both must be broken together!

To .....

Remember him thou leav'st behind,
Whose heart is warmly bound to thee,
Close as the tend'rest links can bind
A heart as warm as heart can be.

Oh! I had long in freedom rov'd,
Though many seem'd my soul to share;
'Twas passion when I thought I lov'd,
'Twas fancy when I thought them fair.

Ev'n she, my muse's early theme,
Beguil'd me only while she warm'd;
'Twas young desire that fed the dream,
And reason broke what passion form'd.

But thou — ah! better had it been
If I had still in freedom rov'd,
If I had ne'er thy beauties seen,
For then I never should have lov'd.

Then all the pain which lovers feel
Had never to this heart been known;
But then, the joys that lovers steal,
Should *they* have ever been my own?

Oh! trust me, when I swear thee this,
Dearest! the pain of loving thee,
The very pain is sweeter bliss
Than passion's wildest ecstasy.

That little cage I would not part,
In which my soul is prison'd now,
For the most light and winged heart
That wantons on the passing vow.

Still, my belov'd! still keep in mind,
However far remov'd from me,
That there is one thou leav'st behind,
Whose heart respires for only thee!

And though ungenial ties have bound
Thy fate unto another's care,
That arm, which clasps thy bosom round,
Cannot confine the heart that's there.

No, no! that heart is only mine
By ties all other ties above,
For I have wed it at a shrine
Where we have had no priest but Love.

SONG.

When Time, who steals our years away,
Shall steal our pleasures too,
The mem'ry of the past will stay,
And half our joys renew.
Then, Julia, when thy beauty's flow'r
Shall feel the wintry air,
Remembrance will recall the hour
When thou alone wert fair.
Then talk no more of future gloom;
Our joys shall always last;
For Hope shall brighten days to come,
And Mem'ry gild the past.

Come, Chloe, fill the genial bowl,
I drink to Love and thee.
Thou never canst decay in soul,
Thou'lt still be young for me.
And as thy lips the tear-drop chase,
Which on my cheek they find,
So hope shall steal away the trace
That sorrow leaves behind.
Then fill the bowl — away with gloom!
Our joys shall always last;
For Hope shall brighten days to come,
And Mem'ry gild the past.

But mark, at thought of future years
When love shall lose its soul,
My Chloe drops her timid tears,
They mingle with my bowl.
How like this bowl of wine, my fair,
Our loving life shall fleet;
Though tears may sometimes mingle there,
The draught will still be sweet.
Then fill the cup — away with gloom!
Our joys shall always last;
For Hope will brighten days to come,
And Mem'ry gild the past.

SONG.

HAVE you not seen the timid tear,
Steal trembling from mine eye ?
Have you not mark'd the flush of fear,
Or caught the murmur'd sigh ?
And can you think my love is chill,
Nor fix'd on you alone ?
And can you rend, by doubting still,
A heart so much your own ?

To you my soul's affections move,
Devoutly, warmly true ;
My life has been a task of love,
One long, long thought of you.
If all your tender faith be o'er,
If still my truth you'll try ;
Alas, I know but *one* proof more —
I'll bless your name, and die !

REUBEN AND ROSE.

A TALE OF ROMANCE.

THE darkness that hung upon Willumberg's walls
Had long been remember'd with awe and dismay;
For years not a sunbeam had play'd in its halls,
And it seem'd as shut out from the regions of day.

Though the valleys were brighten'd by many a beam,
Yet none could the woods of that castle illume ;
And the lightning, which flash'd on the neighbouring stream,
Flew back, as if fearing to enter the gloom !

" Oh ! when shall this horrible darkness disperse ?"
Said Willumberg's lord to the Seer of the Cave;—
" It can never dispel," said the wizard of verse,
" Till the bright star of chivalry sinks in the wave ! "

And who was the bright star of chivalry then ?
Who *could* be but Reuben, the flow'r of the age?
For Reuben was first in the combat of men,
Though Youth had scarce written his name on her page.

For Willumberg's daughter his young heart had beat, —
For Rose, who was bright as the spirit of dawn,
When with wand dropping diamonds, and silvery feet,
It walks o'er the flow'rs of the mountain and lawn.

Must Rose, then, from Reuben so fatally sever ?
Sad, sad were the words of the Seer of the Cave,
That darkness should cover that castle for ever,
Or Reuben be sunk in the merciless wave !

To the wizard she flew, saying, " Tell me, oh, tell !
Shall my Reuben no more be restor'd to my eyes ? "
" Yes, yes — when a spirit shall toll the great bell
Of the mould'ring abbey, your Reuben shall rise ! "

Twice, thrice he repeated " Your Reuben shall rise ! "
And Rose felt a moment's release from her pain;
And wip'd, while she listen'd, the tears from her eyes,
And hop'd she might yet see her hero again.

That hero could smile at the terrors of death,
When he felt that he died for the sire of his Rose;
To the Oder he flew, and there, plunging beneath,
In the depth of the billows soon found his repose. —

How strangely the order of destiny falls ! —
Not long in the waters the warrior lay,
When a sunbeam was seen to glance over the walls,
And the castle of Willumberg bask'd in the ray!

All, all but the soul of the maid was in light,
There sorrow and terror lay gloomy and blank :
Two days did she wander, and all the long night,
In quest of her love, on the wide river's bank.

Oft, oft did she pause for the toll of the bell,
And heard but the breathings of night in the air ;
Long, long did she gaze on the watery swell,
And saw but the foam of the white billow there.

And often as midnight its veil would undraw,
As she look'd at the light of the moon in the stream,
She thought 'twas his helmet of silver she saw,
As the curl of the surge glitter'd high in the beam.

And now the third night was begemming the sky;
Poor Rose, on the cold dewy margent reclin'd,
There wept till the tear almost froze in her eye,
When — hark ! — 'twas the bell that came deep in the wind !

She startled, and saw, through the glimmering shade,
A form o'er the waters in majesty glide ;

She knew 'twas her love, though his cheek was decay'd,
And his helmet of silver was wash'd by the tide.

Was this what the Seer of the Cave had foretold?—
Dim, dim through the phantom the moon shot a gleam;
'Twas Reuben, but, ah! he was deathly and cold,
And fleeted away like the spell of a dream!

Twice, thrice did he rise, and as often she thought
From the bank to embrace him, but vain her endeavour!
Then, plunging beneath, at a billow she caught,
And sunk to repose on its bosom for ever!

DID NOT.

'Twas a new feeling — something more
Than we had dared to own before,
Which then we hid not;
We saw it in each other's eye,
And wish'd, in every half-breath'd sigh,
To speak, but did not.

She felt my lips' impassion'd touch —
'Twas the first time I dared so much,
And yet she chid not;
But whisper'd o'er my burning brow,
"Oh! do you doubt I love you now?"
Sweet soul! I did not.

Warmly I felt her bosom thrill,
I press'd it closer, closer still,
Though gently bid not;
Till — oh! the world hath seldom heard
Of lovers, who so nearly err'd,
And yet, who did not.

TO

. . . . . .

That wrinkle, when first I espied it
At once put my heart out of pain;
Till the eye, that was glowing beside it,
Disturb'd my ideas again.

Thou art just in the twilight at present,
When woman's declension begins;
When, fading from all that is pleasant,
She bids a good night to her sins.

Yet thou still art so lovely to me,
I would sooner, my exquisite mother!
Repose in the sunset of thee,
Than bask in the noon of another.

TO

MRS. . . . . .

ON SOME CALUMNIES AGAINST HER CHARACTER.

Is not thy mind a gentle mind?
Is not that heart a heart refin'd?
Hast thou not every gentle grace,
We love in woman's mind and face?
And, oh! art *thou* a shrine for Sin
To hold her hateful worship in?

No, no, be happy — dry that tear —
Though some thy heart hath harbour'd near,
May now repay its love with blame;
Though man, who ought to shield thy fame,
Ungenerous man, be first to shun thee;
Though all the world look cold upon thee,
Yet shall thy pureness keep thee still
Unharm'd by that surrounding chill;
Like the famed drop, in crystal found,[1]
Floating, while all was froz'n around, —
Unchill'd, unchanging shalt thou be,
Safe in thy own sweet purity.

ANACREONTIC.

——in *lachrymas* verterat omne merum.
TIB. lib i. eleg. 5.

Press the grape, and let it pour
Around the board its purple show'r;
And, while the drops my goblet steep,
I'll think in woe the clusters weep.

Weep on, weep on, my pouting vine!
Heav'n grant no tears, but tears of wine.
Weep on; and, as thy sorrows flow,
I'll taste the luxury of woe.

[1] This alludes to a curious gem, upon which Claudian has left us some very elaborate epigrams. It was a drop of pure water enclosed within a piece of crystal. See Claudian. Epigram. "de Crystallo cui aqua inerat." Addison mentions a curiosity of this kind at Milan; and adds, "It is such a rarity as this that I saw at Vendôme in France, which they there pretend is a tear that our Saviour shed over Lazarus, and was gathered up by an angel, who put it into a little crystal vial, and made a present of it to Mary Magdalen."—*Addison's Remarks on several Parts of Italy.*

TO .

. . . . . .

When I lov'd you, I can't but allow
I had many an exquisite minute;
But the scorn that I feel for you now
Hath even more luxury in it.

Thus, whether we're on or we're off,
Some witchery seems to await you;
To love you was pleasant enough,
And, oh! 'tis delicious to hate you!

TO JULIA.

IN ALLUSION TO SOME ILLIBERAL CRITICISMS.

Why, let the stingless critic chide
With all that fume of vacant pride
Which mantles o'er the pedant fool,
Like vapour on a stagnant pool.
Oh! if the song, to feeling true,
Can please th' elect, the sacred few,
Whose souls, by Taste and Nature taught,
Thrill with the genuine pulse of thought —
If some fond feeling maid like thee,
The warm-ey'd child of Sympathy,
Shall say, while o'er my simple theme
She languishes in Passion's dream,
"He was, indeed, a tender soul —
"No critic law, no chill control,
"Should ever freeze, by timid art,
"The flowings of so fond a heart!"
Yes, soul of Nature! soul of Love!
That, hov'ring like a snow-wing'd dove,
Breath'd o'er my cradle warblings wild,
And hail'd me Passion's warmest child, —
Grant me the tear from Beauty's eye,
From Feeling's breast the votive sigh;
Oh! let my song, my mem'ry, find
A shrine within the tender mind;
And I will smile when critics chide,
And I will scorn the fume of pride
Which mantles o'er the pedant fool,
Like vapour round some stagnant pool!

TO JULIA.

Mock me no more with Love's beguiling dream,
A dream, I find, illusory as sweet:
One smile of friendship, nay, of cold esteem,
Far dearer were than passion's bland deceit!

I've heard you oft eternal truth declare;
Your heart was only mine, I once believ'd.
Ah! shall I say that all your vows were air?
And *must* I say, my hopes were all deceiv'd?

Vow, then, no longer that our souls are twin'd,
That all our joys are felt with mutual zeal;
Julia! — 'tis pity, pity makes you kind;
You know I love, and you would *seem* to feel.

But shall I still go seek within those arms
A joy in which affection takes no part?
No, no, farewell! you give me but your charms,
When I had fondly thought you gave your heart.

THE SHRINE.

TO . . . . . .

My fates had destin'd me to rove
A long, long pilgrimage of love;
And many an altar on my way
Has lur'd my pious steps to stay;
For, if the saint was young and fair,
I turn'd and sung my vespers there.
This, from a youthful pilgrim's fire,
Is what your pretty saints require:
To pass, nor tell a single bead,
With them would be profane indeed!
But, trust me, all this young devotion
Was but to keep my zeal in motion;
And, ev'ry humbler altar past,
I now have reach'd THE SHRINE at last!

TO A LADY,

WITH SOME MANUSCRIPT POEMS,

ON LEAVING THE COUNTRY.

When, casting many a look behind,
I leave the friends I cherish here —
Perchance some other friends to find,
But surely finding none so dear —

Haply the little simple page,
Which votive thus I've trac'd for thee,
May now and then a look engage,
And steal one moment's thought for me.

But, oh! in pity let not those
Whose hearts are not of gentle mould,
Let not the eye that seldom flows
With feeling's tear, my song behold.

For, trust me, they who never melt
With pity, never melt with love;
And such will frown at all I've felt,
And all my loving lays reprove.

But if, perhaps, some gentler mind,
Which rather loves to praise than blame,
Should in my page an interest find,
And linger kindly on my name;

Tell him — or, oh! if, gentler still,
By female lips my name be blest:
For, where do all affections thrill
So sweetly as in woman's breast? —

Tell her, that he whose loving themes
Her eye indulgent wanders o'er,
Could sometimes wake from idle dreams,
And bolder flights of fancy soar;

That Glory oft would claim the lay,
And Friendship oft his numbers move;
But whisper then, that, "sooth to say,
"His sweetest song was giv'n to Love!"

TO JULIA.

Though Fate, my girl, may bid us part,
Our souls it cannot, shall not sever;
The heart will seek its kindred heart,
And cling to it as close as ever.

But must we, must we part indeed?
Is all our dream of rapture over?
And does not Julia's bosom bleed
To leave so dear, so fond a lover?

Does *she* too mourn? — Perhaps she may;
Perhaps she mourns our bliss so fleeting:
But why is Julia's eye so gay,
If Julia's heart like mine is beating?

I oft have lov'd that sunny glow
Of gladness in her blue eye gleaming —
But can the bosom bleed with woe,
While joy is in the glances beaming?

No, no! — Yet, love, I will not chide;
Although your heart *were* fond of roving,
Nor that, nor all the world beside
Could keep your faithful boy from loving.

You'll soon be distant from his eye,
And, with you, all that's worth possessing.
Oh! then it will be sweet to die,
When life has lost its only blessing!

To .....

Sweet lady, look not thus again:
Those bright deluding smiles recall
A maid remember'd now with pain,
Who was my love, my life, my all!

Oh! while this heart bewilder'd took
Sweet poison from her thrilling eye,
Thus would she smile, and lisp, and look,
And I would hear, and gaze, and sigh!

Yes, I did love her — wildly love —
She was her sex's best deceiver!
And oft she swore she'd never rove —
And I was destin'd to believe her!

Then, lady, do not wear the smile
Of one whose smile could thus betray;
Alas! I think the lovely wile
Again could steal my heart away.

For, when those spells that charm'd my mind,
On lips so pure as thine I see,
I fear the heart which she resign'd
Will err again, and fly to thee!

NATURE'S LABELS.

A FRAGMENT.

In vain we fondly strive to trace
The soul's reflection in the face;
In vain we dwell on lines and crosses,
Crooked mouth, or short proboscis;
Boobies have look'd as wise and bright
As Plato or the Stagirite:
And many a sage and learned skull
Has peep'd through windows dark and dull.
Since then, though art do all it can,
We ne'er can reach the inward man,
Nor (howsoe'er "learn'd Thebans" doubt)
The inward woman, from without,
Methinks 'twere well if Nature could
(And Nature could, if Nature would)
Some pithy, short descriptions write,
On tablets large, in black and white,
Which she might hang about our throttles,
Like labels upon physic-bottles;
And where all men might read — but stay —
As dialectic sages say,
The argument most apt and ample
For common use is the example.

For instance, then, if Nature's care
Had not portray'd, in lines so fair,
The inward soul of Lucy L-nd-n,
This is the label she'd have pinn'd on.

LABEL FIRST.

Within this form there lies enshrin'd
The purest, brightest gem of mind.
Though Feeling's hand may sometimes throw
Upon its charms the shade of woe,
The lustre of the gem, when veil'd,
Shall be but mellow'd, not conceal'd.

Now, sirs, imagine, if you're able,
That Nature wrote a second label,
They're her own words, — at least suppose so —
And boldly pin it on Pomposo.

LABEL SECOND.

When I compos'd the fustian brain
Of this redoubted Captain Vain,
I had at hand but few ingredients,
And so was forc'd to use expedients.
I put therein some small discerning,
A grain of sense, a grain of learning;
And when I saw the void behind,
I fill'd it up with — froth and wind!
* * * * *

TO JULIA.

ON HER BIRTHDAY.

WHEN Time was entwining the garland of years,
Which to crown my beloved was given,
Though some of the leaves might be sullied with tears,
Yet the flow'rs were all gather'd in heaven.

And long may this garland be sweet to the eye,
May its verdure for ever be new;
Young Love shall enrich it with many a sigh,
And Sympathy nurse it with dew.

A REFLECTION AT SEA.

SEE how, beneath the moonbeam's smile,
Yon little billow heaves its breast,
And foams and sparkles for awhile, —
Then murmuring subsides to rest.

Thus man, the sport of bliss and care,
Rises on time's eventful sea;
And, having swell'd a moment there,
Thus melts into eternity!

CLORIS AND FANNY.

CLORIS! if I were Persia's king,
I'd make my graceful queen of thee;
While FANNY, wild and artless thing,
Should but thy humble handmaid be.

There is but *one* objection in it —
That, verily, I'm much afraid
I should, in some unlucky minute,
Forsake the mistress for the maid.

THE SHIELD.

SAY, did you not hear a voice of death!
And did you not mark the paly form
Which rode on the silvery mist of the heath,
And sung a ghostly dirge in the storm?

Was it the wailing bird of the gloom,
That shrieks on the house of woe all night?
Or a shiv'ring fiend that flew to a tomb,
To howl and to feed till the glance of light?

'Twas *not* the death-bird's cry from the wood,
For shiv'ring fiend that hung on the blast;
'Twas the shade of Helderic — man of blood —
It screams for the guilt of days that are past.

See, how the red, red lightning strays,
And scares the gliding ghosts of the heath!
Now on the leafless yew it plays,
Where hangs the shield of this son of death.

That shield is blushing with murd'rous stains;
Long has it hung from the cold yew's spray;
It is blown by storms and wash'd by rains,
But neither can take the blood away!

Oft by that yew, on the blasted field,
Demons dance to the red moon's light;
While the damp boughs creak, and the swinging shield
Sings to the raving spirit of night!

TO JULIA,

WEEPING.

Oh! if your tears are giv'n to care,
If real woe disturbs your peace,
Come to my bosom, weeping fair!
And I will bid your weeping cease.

But if with Fancy's vision'd fears,
With dreams of woe your bosom thrill;
You look so lovely in your tears,
That I must bid you drop them still.

DREAMS.

TO

. . . . . .

In slumber, I prithee how is it
That souls are oft taking the air,
And paying each other a visit,
While bodies are heaven knows where?

Last night, 'tis in vain to deny it,
Your Soul took a fancy to roam,
For I heard her, on tiptoe so quiet,
Come ask, whether *mine* was at home.

And mine let her in with delight,
And they talk'd and they laugh'd the time through;
For, when souls come together at night,
There is no saying what they mayn't do!

And *your* little Soul, heaven bless her!
Had much to complain and to say,
Of how sadly you wrong and oppress her
By keeping her prison'd all day.

"If I happen," said she, "but to steal
"For a peep now and then to her eye,
"Or, to quiet the fever I feel,
"Just venture abroad on a sigh;

"In an instant she frightens me in
"With some phantom of prudence or terror,
"For fear I should stray into sin,
"Or, what is still worse, into error!

"So, instead of displaying my graces,
"By daylight, in language and mien,
"I am shut up in corners and places,
"Where truly I blush to be seen!"

Upon hearing this piteous confession,
My Soul, looking tenderly at her,
Declar'd, as for grace and discretion,
He did not know much of the matter;

"But, to-morrow, sweet Spirit!" he said,
"Be at home after midnight, and then
"I will come when your lady's in bed,
"And we'll talk o'er the subject again."

So she whisper'd a word in his ear,
I suppose to her door to direct him,
And, just after midnight, my dear,
Your polite little Soul may expect him.

TO ROSA.

WRITTEN DURING ILLNESS.

The wisest soul, by anguish torn,
Will soon unlearn the lore it knew;
And when the shrining casket's worn,
The gem within will tarnish too.

But love's an essence of the soul,
Which sinks not with this chain of clay;
Which throbs beyond the chill control
Of with'ring pain or pale decay.

And surely, when the touch of Death
Dissolves the spirit's earthly ties,
Love still attends th' immortal breath,
And makes it purer for the skies!

Oh Rosa, when, to seek its sphere,
My soul shall leave this orb of men,
That love which form'd its treasure here,
Shall be its *best* of treasures then!

And as, in fabled dreams of old,
Some air-born genius, child of time,
Presided o'er each star that roll'd,
And track'd it through its path sublime;

So thou, fair planet, not unled,
Shalt through thy mortal orbit stray;
Thy lover's shade, to thee still wed,
Shall linger round thy earthly way.

Let other spirits range the sky,
And play around each starry gem;
I'll bask beneath that lucid eye,
Nor envy worlds of suns to them.

And when that heart shall cease to beat,
  And when that breath at length is free,
Then, Rosa, soul to soul we'll meet,
  And mingle to eternity!

SONG.

The wreath you wove, the wreath you wove
  Is fair — but oh, how fair,
If Pity's hand had stol'n from Love
  One leaf to mingle there!

If every rose with gold were tied,
  Did gems for dewdrops fall,
One faded leaf where Love had sigh'd
  Were sweetly worth them all.

The wreath you wove, the wreath you wove
  Our emblem well may be;
Its bloom is yours, but hopeless Love
  Must keep its tears for me.

THE SALE OF LOVES.

I dreamt that, in the Paphian groves,
  My nets by moonlight laying,
I caught a flight of wanton Loves,
  Among the rose-beds playing.
Some just had left their silv'ry shell,
  While some were full in feather;
So pretty a lot of Loves to sell,
  Were never yet strung together.
    Come buy my Loves,
    Come buy my Loves,
Ye dames and rose-lipp'd misses! —
    They're new and bright,
    The cost is light,
For the coin of this isle is kisses.

First Cloris came, with looks sedate,
  Their coin on her lips was ready;
"I buy," quoth she, "my Love by weight,
  "Full grown, if you please, and steady."
"Let mine be light," said Fanny, "pray —
  "Such lasting toys undo one;
"A light little Love that will last to-day, —
  "To-morrow I'll sport a new one."
    Come buy my Loves,
    Come buy my Loves,
Ye dames and rose-lipp'd misses! —
    There's some will keep,
    Some light and cheap,
At from ten to twenty kisses.

The learned Prue took a pert young thing,
  To divert her virgin Muse with,
And pluck sometimes a quill from his wing,
  To indite her billet-doux with.
Poor Cloe would give for a well-fledg'd pair
  Her only eye, if you'd ask it;
And Tabitha begg'd, old toothless fair,
  For the youngest Love in the basket.
    Come buy my Loves, &c. &c.

But *one* was left, when Susan came,
  One worth them all together;
At sight of her dear looks of shame,
  He smil'd, and prun'd his feather.
She wish'd the boy — 'twas more than whim —
  Her looks, her sighs betray'd it;
But kisses were not enough for him,
  I ask'd a heart, and she paid it!
    Good-by, my Loves,
    Good-by, my Loves,
'Twould make you smile to've seen us
    First trade for this
    Sweet child of bliss,
And then nurse the boy between us.

TO

. . . . . .

The world had just begun to steal
  Each hope that led me lightly on;
I felt not, as I us'd to feel,
  And life grew dark and love was gone.

No eye to mingle sorrow's tear,
  No lip to mingle pleasure's breath,
No circling arms to draw me near —
  'Twas gloomy, and I wish'd for death.

But when I saw that gentle eye,
  Oh! something seem'd to tell me then,
That I was yet too young to die,
  And hope and bliss might bloom again.

With every gentle smile that crost
  Your kindling cheek, you lighted home
Some feeling, which my heart had lost,
  And peace, which far had learn'd to roam.

'Twas then indeed so sweet to live,
  Hope look'd so new and Love so kind,
That, though I mourn, I yet forgive
  The ruin they have left behind.

I could have lov'd you — oh, so well! —
The dream, that wishing boyhood knows,
Is but a bright, beguiling spell,
That only lives while passion glows :

But, when this early flush declines,
When the heart's sunny morning fleets,
You know not then how close it twines
Round the first kindred soul it meets.

Yes, yes, I could have lov'd, as one
Who, while his youth's enchantments fall,
Finds something dear to rest upon,
Which pays him for the loss of all.

TO

. . . . . .

Never mind how the pedagogue proses,
You want not antiquity's stamp ;
A lip, that such fragrance discloses,
Oh ! never should smell of the lamp.

Old Cloe, whose withering kiss
Hath long set the Loves at defiance,
Now, done with the science of bliss,
May take to the blisses of science.

But for *you* to be buried in books —
Ah, Fanny, they're pitiful sages,
Who could not in *one* of your looks
Read more than in millions of pages.

Astronomy finds in those eyes
Better light than she studies above ;
And Music would borrow your sighs
As the melody fittest for Love.

Your Arithmetic only can trip
If to count your own charms you endeavour ;
And Eloquence glows on your lip
When you swear, that you'll love me for ever.

Thus you see, what a brilliant alliance
Of arts is assembled in you ; —
A course of more exquisite science
Man never need wish to pursue.

And, oh ! — if a Fellow like me
May confer a diploma of hearts,
With my lip thus I seal your degree,
My divine little Mistress of Arts !

ON THE

DEATH OF A LADY.

Sweet spirit ! if thy airy sleep
Nor sees my tears nor hears my sighs,
Then will I weep, in anguish weep,
Till the last heart's drop fills mine eyes.

But if thy sainted soul can feel,
And mingles in our misery ;
Then, then my breaking heart I'll seal —
Thou shalt not hear one sigh from me.

The beam of morn was on the stream,
But sullen clouds the day deform :
Like thee was that young, orient beam,
Like death, alas, that sullen storm !

Thou wert not form'd for living here,
So link'd thy soul was with the sky ;
Yet, ah, we held thee all so dear,
We thought thou wert not form'd to die.

INCONSTANCY.

And do I then wonder that Julia deceives me,
When surely there's nothing in nature more common ?
She vows to be true, and while vowing she leaves me —
And could I expect any more from a woman ?

Oh, woman ! your heart is a pitiful treasure ;
And Mahomet's doctrine was not too severe,
When he held that you were but materials of pleasure,
And reason and thinking were out of your sphere.

By your heart, when the fond sighing lover can win it,
He thinks that an age of anxiety's paid ;
But, oh, while he's blest, let him die at the minute —
If he live but a *day*, he'll be surely betray'd.

THE NATAL GENIUS.

A DREAM.

To . . . . . ,

THE MORNING OF HER BIRTHDAY.

In witching slumbers of the night,
I dreamt I was the airy sprite
That on thy natal moment smil'd ;

And thought I wafted on my wing
Those flow'rs which in Elysium spring,
To crown my lovely mortal child.

With olive-branch I bound thy head,
Heart's ease along thy path I shed,
Which was to bloom through all thy years;
Nor yet did I forget to bind
Love's roses, with his myrtle twin'd,
And dew'd by sympathetic tears.

Such was the wild but precious boon
Which Fancy, at her magic noon,
Bade me to Nona's image pay;
And were it thus my fate to be
Thy little guardian deity,
How blest around thy steps I'd play!

Thy life should glide in peace along,
Calm as some lonely shepherd's song
That's heard at distance in the grove;
No cloud should ever dim thy sky,
No thorns along thy pathway lie,
But all be beauty, peace, and love.

Indulgent Time should never bring
To thee one blight upon his wing,
So gently o'er thy brow he'd fly;
And death itself should but be felt
Like that of daybeams, when they melt,
Bright to the last, in evening's sky!

ELEGIAC STANZAS,

SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN BY JULIA,

ON THE DEATH OF HER BROTHER.

THOUGH sorrow long has worn my heart;
Though every day I've counted o'er
Hath brought a new and quick'ning smart
To wounds that rankled fresh before;

Though in my earliest life bereft
Of tender links by nature tied;
Though hope deceiv'd, and pleasure left;
Though friends betray'd and foes belied;

I still had hopes—for hope will stay
After the sunset of delight;
So like the star which ushers day,
We scarce can think it heralds night!—

I hop'd that, after all its strife,
My weary heart at length should rest,
And, fainting from the waves of life,
Find harbour in a brother's breast.

That brother's breast was warm with truth,
Was bright with honour's purest ray;
He was the dearest, gentlest youth—
Ah, why then was he torn away?

He should have stay'd, have linger'd here
To soothe his Julia's every woe;
He should have chas'd each bitter tear,
And not have caus'd those tears to flow.

We saw within his soul expand
The fruits of genius, nurs'd by taste;
While Science, with a fost'ring hand,
Upon his brow her chaplet plac'd.

We saw, by bright degrees, his mind
Grow rich in all that makes men dear;—
Enlighten'd, social, and refin'd,
In friendship firm, in love sincere.

Such was the youth we lov'd so well,
And such the hopes that fate denied;—
We lov'd, but ah! could scarcely tell
How deep, how dearly, till he died!

Close as the fondest links could strain,
Twin'd with my very heart he grew;
And by that fate which breaks the chain,
The heart is almost broken too.

TO THE LARGE AND BEAUTIFUL

MISS . . . . . ,

IN ALLUSION TO SOME PARTNERSHIP IN A LOTTERY SHARE.

IMPROMPTU.

—Ego pars— VIRG.

IN wedlock a species of lottery lies,
Where in blanks and in prizes we deal;
But how comes it that you, such a capital prize,
Should so long have remain'd in the wheel?

If ever, by Fortune's indulgent decree,
To me such a ticket should roll,
A sixteenth, Heav'n knows! were sufficient for me;
For what could *I* do with the whole?

A DREAM.

I THOUGHT this heart enkindled lay
On Cupid's burning shrine:
I thought he stole thy heart away,
And plac'd it near to mine.

I saw thy heart begin to melt,
Like ice before the sun;
Till both a glow congenial felt,
And mingled into one!

TO .....

WITH all my soul, then, let us part,
Since both are anxious to be free;
And I will send you home your heart,
If you will send back mine to me.

We've had some happy hours together,
But joy must often change its wing;
And spring would be but gloomy weather,
If we had nothing else but spring.

'Tis not that I expect to find
A more devoted, fond, and true one,
With rosier cheek or sweeter mind—
Enough for me that she's a new one.

Thus let us leave the bower of love,
Where we have loiter'd long in bliss;
And you may down *that* pathway rove,
While I shall take my way through *this*.

ANACREONTIC.

"SHE never look'd so kind before—
"Yet why the wanton's smile recall?
"I've seen this witchery o'er and o'er,
"'Tis hollow, vain, and heartless all!"

Thus I said and, sighing, drain'd
The cup which she so late had tasted;
Upon whose rim still fresh remain'd
The breath, so oft in falsehood wasted.

I took the harp, and would have sung
As if 'twere not of her I sang;
But still the notes on Lamia hung—
On whom but Lamia *could* they hang?

Those eyes of hers, that floating shine,
Like diamonds in some Eastern river;
That kiss, for which, if worlds were mine,
A world for every kiss I'd give her.

That frame so delicate, yet warm'd
With flushes of love's genial hue;—
A mould transparent, as if form'd
To let the spirit's light shine through.

Of these I sung, and notes and words
Were sweet, as if the very air
From Lamia's lip hung o'er the chords,
And Lamia's voice still warbled there!

But when, alas, I turn'd the theme,
And when of vows and oaths I spoke,
Of truth and hope's seducing dream—
The chord beneath my finger broke.

False harp! false woman!—such, oh, such
Are lutes too frail and hearts too willing;
Any hand, whate'er its touch,
Can set their chords or pulses thrilling.

And when that thrill is most awake,
And when you think Heav'n's joys await you,
The nymph will change, the chord will break—
Oh Love, oh Music, how I hate you!

TO JULIA.

I SAW the peasant's hand unkind
From yonder oak the ivy sever;
They seem'd in very being twin'd;
Yet now the oak is fresh as ever!

Not so the widow'd ivy shines:
Torn from its dear and only stay,
In drooping widowhood it pines,
And scatters all its bloom away.

Thus, Julia, did our hearts entwine,
Till Fate disturb'd their tender ties:
Thus gay indifference blooms in thine,
While mine, deserted, droops and dies!

HYMN
OF A VIRGIN OF DELPHI,
AT THE TOMB OF HER MOTHER.

OH, lost, for ever lost—no more
Shall Vesper light our dewy way

Along the rocks of Crissa's shore,
To hymn the fading fires of day;
No more to Tempé's distant vale
In holy musings shall we roam,
Through summer's glow and winter's gale,
To bear the mystic chaplets home.[1]
'Twas then my soul's expanding zeal,
By nature warm'd and led by thee,
In every breeze was taught to feel
The breathings of a Deity.
Guide of my heart! still hovering round,
Thy looks, thy words are still my own—
I see thee raising from the ground
Some laurel, by the winds o'erthrown,
And hear thee say, "This humble bough
"Was planted for a doom divine;
"And, though it droop in languor now,
"Shall flourish on the Delphic shrine!
"Thus, in the vale of earthly sense,
"Though sunk awhile the spirit lies,
"A viewless hand shall cull it thence,
"To bloom immortal in the skies!"

All that the young should feel and know,
By thee was taught so sweetly well,
Thy words fell soft as vernal snow,
And all was brightness where they fell!
Fond soother of my infant tear,
Fond sharer of my infant joy,
Is not thy shade still ling'ring here?
Am I not still thy soul's employ?
Oh yes—and, as in former days,
When, meeting on the sacred mount,
Our nymphs awak'd their choral lays,
And danc'd around Cassotis' fount;
As then, 'twas all thy wish and care,
That mine should be the simplest mien,
My lyre and voice the sweetest there,
My foot the lightest o'er the green:
So still, each look and step to mould,
Thy guardian care is round me spread,
Arranging every snowy fold,
And guiding every mazy tread.
And, when I lead the hymning choir,
Thy spirit still, unseen and free,
Hovers between my lip and lyre,
And weds them into harmony.
Flow, Plistus, flow, thy murmuring wave
Shall never drop its silv'ry tear
Upon so pure, so blest a grave,
To memory so entirely dear!

[1] The laurel, for the common uses of the temple, for adorning the altars and sweeping the pavement, was supplied by a tree near the fountain of Castalia; but upon all important occasions, they sent to Tempé for their laurel. We find, in Pausanias, that this valley supplied the branches, of which the temple was originally constructed; and Plutarch says, in his Dialogue on Music, "The youth who brings the Tempic laurel to Delphi is always attended by a player on the flute." Αλλα μην και τω καταπομιζοντι παιδι την Τεμπικην δαφνην εις Δελφους παρομαρτει αυλητης.

SYMPATHY.

TO JULIA.

—— sine me sit nulla Venus. SULPICIA.

Our hearts, my love, were form'd to be
The genuine twins of Sympathy,
They live with one sensation:
In joy or grief, but most in love,
Like chords in unison they move,
And thrill with like vibration.

How oft I've heard thee fondly say,
Thy vital pulse shall cease to play
When mine no more is moving;
Since, now, to feel a joy *alone*
Were worse to thee than feeling none
So twinn'd are we in loving!

THE TEAR.

On beds of snow the moonbeam slept,
And chilly was the midnight gloom,
When by the damp grave Ellen wept—
Fond maid! it was her Lindor's tomb!

A warm tear gush'd, the wintry air
Congeal'd it as it flow'd away:
All night it lay an ice-drop there,
At morn it glitter'd in the ray.

An angel, wand'ring from her sphere,
Who saw this bright, this frozen gem,
To dew-ey'd Pity brought the tear,
And hung it on her diadem!

THE SNAKE.

My love and I, the other day,
Within a myrtle arbour lay,
When near us, from a rosy bed,
A little Snake put forth its head.

"See," said the maid with thoughtful eyes—
"Yonder the fatal emblem lies!
"Who could expect such hidden harm
"Beneath the rose's smiling charm?"

Never did grave remark occur
Less *à-propos* than this from her.

I rose to kill the snake, but she,
Half-smiling, pray'd it might not be.
"No," said the maiden — and, alas,
Her eyes spoke volumes, while she said it —
"Long as the snake is in the grass,
"One *may*, perhaps, have cause to dread it:
"But, when its wicked eyes appear,
"And when we know for what they wink so,
"One must be *very* simple, dear,
"To let it wound one — don't you think so?"

TO ROSA.

Is the song of Rosa mute?
Once such lays inspir'd her lute!
Never doth a sweeter song
Steal the breezy lyre along,
When the wind, in odours dying,
Wooes it with enamour'd sighing.

Is my Rosa's lute unstrung?
Once a tale of peace it sung
To her lover's throbbing breast —
Then was he divinely blest!
Ah! but Rosa loves no more,
Therefore Rosa's song is o'er;
And her lute neglected lies;
And her boy forgotten sighs.
Silent lute — forgotten lover —
Rosa's love and song are over!

ELEGIAC STANZAS.

Sic juvat perire.

When wearied wretches sink to sleep,
How heavenly soft their slumbers lie!
How sweet is death to those who weep,
To those who weep and long to die!

Saw you the soft and grassy bed,
Where flow'rets deck the green earth's breast?
'Tis there I wish to lay my head,
'Tis there I wish to sleep at rest.

Oh, let not tears embalm my tomb, —
None but the dews at twilight given!
Oh, let not sighs disturb the gloom, —
None but the whisp'ring winds of heaven!

LOVE AND MARRIAGE.

Eque brevi verbo ferre perenne malum.
SECUNDUS, eleg. vii.

Still the question I must parry,
Still a wayward truant prove:
Where I love, I must not marry;
Where I marry, cannot love.

Were she fairest of creation,
With the least presuming mind;
Learned without affectation;
Not deceitful, yet refin'd;

Wise enough, but never rigid;
Gay, but not too lightly free;
Chaste as snow, and yet not frigid;
Fond, yet satisfied with me:

Were she all this ten times over,
All that heav'n to earth allows,
I should be too much her lover
Ever to become her spouse.

Love will never bear enslaving;
Summer garments suit him best;
Bliss itself is not worth having,
If we're by compulsion blest.

ANACREONTIC.

I fill'd to thee, to thee I drank,
I nothing did but drink and fill;
The bowl by turns was bright and blank,
'Twas drinking, filling, drinking still.

At length I bid an artist paint
Thy image in this ample cup,
That I might see the dimpled saint,
To whom I quaff'd my nectar up.

Behold, how bright that purple lip
Now blushes through the wave at me;
Every roseate drop I sip
Is just like kissing wine from thee.

And still I drink the more for this;
For, ever when the draught I drain,
Thy lip invites another kiss,
And — in the nectar flows again.

So, here's to thee, my gentle dear,
And may that eyelid never shine
Beneath a darker, bitterer tear
Than bathes it in this bowl of mine!

THE SURPRISE.

Chloris, I swear, by all I ever swore,
That from this hour I shall not love thee more. —
"What! love no more? Oh! why this alter'd vow?"
Because I *cannot* love thee *more* — than *now!*

TO MISS . . . . . ,

ON HER ASKING THE AUTHOR WHY SHE HAD SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.

I'll ask the sylph who round thee flies,
And in thy breath his pinion dips,
Who suns him in thy radiant eyes,
And faints upon thy sighing lips:

I'll ask him where's the veil of sleep
That us'd to shade thy looks of light;
And why those eyes their vigil keep,
When other suns are sunk in night?

And I will say — her angel breast
Has never throbb'd with guilty sting;
Her bosom is the sweetest nest
Where Slumber could repose his wing!

And I will say — her cheeks that flush,
Like vernal roses in the sun,
Have ne'er by shame been taught to blush,
Except for what her eyes have done!

Then tell me, why, thou child of air!
Does slumber from her eyelids rove?
What is her heart's impassion'd care? —
Perhaps, oh sylph! perhaps, 'tis *love.*

THE WONDER.

Come, tell me where the maid is found,
Whose heart can love without deceit,
And I will range the world around,
To sigh one moment at her feet.

Oh! tell me where's her sainted home,
What air receives her blessed sigh,
A pilgrimage of years I'll roam
To catch one sparkle of her eye!

And if her cheek be smooth and bright,
While truth within her bosom lies,
I'll gaze upon her morn and night,
Till my heart leave me through my eyes.

Show me on earth a thing so rare,
I'll own all miracles are true;
To make one maid sincere and fair,
Oh, 'tis the utmost Heav'n can do!

LYING.

Che con le lor bugie pajon divini. *Mauro d'Arcano.*

I do confess, in many a sigh,
My lips have breath'd you many a lie;
And who, with such delights in view,
Would lose them, for a lie or two?

Nay,—look not thus, with brow reproving;
Lies are, my dear, the soul of loving.
If half we tell the girls were true,
If half we swear to think and do,
Were aught but lying's bright illusion,
This world would be in strange confusion.
If ladies' eyes were, every one,
As lovers swear, a radiant sun,
Astronomy must leave the skies,
To learn her lore in ladies' eyes.
Oh, no — believe me, lovely girl,
When nature turns your teeth to pearl,
Your neck to snow, your eyes to fire,
Your amber locks to golden wire,
Then, only then can Heaven decree,
That you should live for only me,
Or I for you, as night and morn,
We've swearing kist, and kissing sworn.

And now, my gentle hints to clear,
For once I'll tell you truth, my dear.
Whenever you may chance to meet
Some loving youth, whose love is sweet,
Long as you're false and he believes you,
Long as you trust and he deceives you,
So long the blissful bond endures,
And while he lies, his heart is yours:
But, oh! you've wholly lost the youth
The instant that he tells you truth.

ANACREONTIC.

Friend of my soul, this goblet sip,
'Twill chase that pensive tear;

'Tis not so sweet as woman's lip,
But, oh! 'tis more sincere.
Like her delusive beam,
'Twill steal away thy mind:
But, truer than love's dream,
It leaves no sting behind.

Come, twine the wreath, thy brows to shade;
These flow'rs were cull'd at noon;—
Like woman's love the rose will fade,
But, ah! not half so soon.
For though the flower's decay'd,
Its fragrance is not o'er;
But once when love's betray'd,
Its sweet life blooms no more.

THE PHILOSOPHER ARISTIPPUS [1]

TO A LAMP

WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN HIM BY LAIS.

Dulcis conscia lectuli lucerna.
MARTIAL., lib. xiv. epig. 39.

"OH! love the Lamp" (my Mistress said),
"The faithful Lamp that, many a night,
"Beside thy Lais' lonely bed
"Has kept its little watch of light.

"Full often has it seen her weep,
"And fix her eye upon its flame,
"Till, weary, she has sunk to sleep,
"Repeating her beloved's name.

"Then love the Lamp—'twill often lead
"Thy step through learning's sacred way;
"And when those studious eyes shall read,
"At midnight, by its lonely ray,
"Of things sublime, of nature's birth,
"Of all that's bright in heaven or earth,
"Oh, think that she, by whom 'twas given,
"Adores thee more than earth or heaven!"

Yes — dearest Lamp, by every charm
On which thy midnight beam has hung;[2]
The head reclin'd, the graceful arm
Across the brow of ivory flung;

The heaving bosom, partly hid,
The sever'd lip's unconscious sighs,
The fringe that from the half-shut lid
Adown the cheek of roses lies:

By these, by all that bloom untold,
And long as all shall charm my heart,
I'll love my little Lamp of gold —
My Lamp and I shall never part.

And often, as she smiling said,
In fancy's hour, thy gentle rays
Shall guide my visionary tread
Through poesy's enchanting maze.
Thy flame shall light the page refin'd,
Where still we catch the Chian's breath,
Where still the bard, though cold in death,
Has left his soul unquench'd behind.
Or, o'er thy humbler legend shine,
Oh man of Ascra's dreary glades![3]
To whom the nightly warbling Nine[4]
A wand of inspiration gave,[5]
Pluck'd from the greenest tree, that shades
The crystal of Castalia's wave.

Then, turning to a purer lore,
We'll cull the sages' deep-hid store;
From Science steal her golden clue,
And every mystic path pursue,
Where Nature, far from vulgar eyes,
Through labyrinths of wonder flies.

[1] It does not appear to have been very difficult to become a philosopher amongst the ancients. A moderate store of learning, with a considerable portion of confidence, and just wit enough to produce an occasional apophthegm, seem to have been all the qualifications necessary for the purpose. The principles of moral science were so very imperfectly understood that the founder of a new sect, in forming his ethical code, might consult either fancy or temperament, and adapt it to his own passions and propensities; so that Mahomet, with a little more learning, might have flourished as a philosopher in those days, and would have required but the polish of the schools to become the rival of Aristippus in morality. In the science of nature, too, though some valuable truths were discovered by them, they seemed hardly to know they were truths, or at least were as well satisfied with errors; and Xenophanes, who asserted that the stars were igneous clouds, lighted up every night and extinguished again in the morning, was thought and styled a philosopher, as generally as he who anticipated Newton in developing the arrangement of the universe.

For this opinion of Xenophanes, see Plutarch. de Placit. Philosoph. lib. ii. cap. 13. It is impossible to read this treatise of Plutarch, without alternately admiring the genius, and smiling at the absurdities of the philosophers.

[2] The ancients had their lucernæ cubiculariæ or bed-chamber lamps, which, as the emperor Galienus said, "nil cras meminere;" and, with the same commendation of secrecy, Praxagora addresses her lamp in Aristophanes, Εκκλης. We may judge how fanciful they were, in the use and embellishment of their lamps, from the famous symbolic Lucerna, which we find in the Romanum Museum Mich. Ang. Causei, p. 127.

[3] Hesiod, who tells us in melancholy terms of his father's flight to the wretched village of Ascra. Εργ. και Ημερ. v. 251.

[4] Εννυχιαι στειχον, περικαλλεα σσσαν ιεισαι. Theog. v. 10.

[5] Και μοι σκηπτρον εδον, δαφνης εριθηλεος οζον. Id. v. 30.

'Tis thus my heart shall learn to know
How fleeting is this world below,
Where all that meets the morning light,
Is chang'd before the fall of night![1]

I'll tell thee, as I trim thy fire,
"Swift, swift the tide of being runs,
"And Time, who bids thy flame expire,
"Will also quench yon heaven of suns."

Oh, then if earth's united power
Can never chain one feathery hour;
If every print we leave to-day
To-morrow's wave will sweep away;
Who pauses to inquire of heaven
Why were the fleeting treasures given,
The sunny days, the shady nights,
And all their brief but dear delights,
Which heaven has made for man to use,
And man should think it crime to lose?
Who that has cull'd a fresh-blown rose
Will ask it why it breathes and glows,
Unmindful of the blushing ray,
In which it shines its soul away;
Unmindful of the scented sigh,
With which it dies and loves to die.

Pleasure, thou only good on earth![2]
One precious moment giv'n to thee—
Oh! by my Lais' lip, 'tis worth
The sage's immortality.

Then far be all the wisdom hence,
That would our joys one hour delay!
Alas, the feast of soul and sense
Love calls us to in youth's bright day,
If not soon tasted, fleets away.

Ne'er wert thou form'd, my Lamp, to shed
Thy splendour on a lifeless page;—
Whate'er my blushing Lais said
Of thoughtful lore and studies sage,
'Twas mockery all—her glance of joy
Told me thy dearest, best employ.[3]

And, soon as night shall close the eye
Of heaven's young wanderer in the west;
When seers are gazing on the sky,
To find their future orbs of rest;
Then shall I take my trembling way,
Unseen but to those worlds above,
And, led by thy mysterious ray,
Steal to the night-bower of my love.

TO MRS. ———.

ON HER BEAUTIFUL TRANSLATION OF VOITURE'S KISS.

Mon âme sur mon lèvre étoit lors toute entière,
Pour savourer le miel qui sur la vôtre étoit;
Mais en me retirant, elle resta derrière,
Tant de ce doux plaisir l'amorce là restoit.
VOITURE.

How heav'nly was the poet's doom,
To breathe his spirit through a kiss;
And lose within so sweet a tomb
The trembling messenger of bliss!

And, sure his soul return'd to feel
That it *again* could ravish'd be;
For in the kiss that thou didst steal,
His life and soul have fled to thee.

RONDEAU.

"Good night! good night!"—And is it so?
And must I from my Rosa go?
Oh Rosa, say "Good night!" once more,
And I'll repeat it o'er and o'er,
Till the first glance of dawning light
Shall find us saying, still, "Good night."

[1] Ῥεῖν τα ὅλα ποταμου δικην, as expressed among the dogmas of Heraclitus the Ephesian, and with the same image by Seneca, in whom we find a beautiful diffusion of the thought. "Nemo est mane, qui fuit pridie. Corpora nostra rapiuntur fluminum more; quidquid vides currit cum tempore. Nihil ex his quæ videmus manet. Ego ipse, dum loquor mutari ipsa, mutatus sum," &c.

[2] Aristippus considered motion as the principle of happiness, in which idea he differed from the Epicureans, who looked to a state of repose as the only true voluptuousness, and avoided even the too lively agitations of pleasure, as a violent and ungraceful derangement of the senses.

[3] Maupertuis has been still more explicit than this philosopher, in ranking the pleasures of sense above the sublimest pursuits of wisdom. Speaking of the infant man, in his production, he calls him, "une nouvelle créature, qui pourra comprendre les choses les plus sublimes, et ce qui est bien au-dessus, qui pourra goûter les mêmes plaisirs." See his Vénus Physique. This appears to be one of the efforts at Fontenelle's gallantry of manner, for which the learned President is so well and justly ridiculed in the Akakia of Voltaire.

Maupertuis may be thought to have borrowed from the ancient Aristippus that indiscriminate theory of pleasures which he has set forth in his Essai de Philosophie Morale, and for which he was so very justly condemned. Aristippus, according to Laertius, held μη διαφερειν τε ἡδονην ἡδονης, which irrational sentiment has been adopted by Maupertuis: "Tant qu'on ne considère que l'état présent, tous les plaisirs sont du même genre," &c. &c.

And still "Good night," my Rosa, say —
But whisper still, "A minute stay;"
And I will stay, and every minute
Shall have an age of transport in it;
Till Time himself shall stay his flight,
To listen to our sweet "Good night."

"Good night!" you'll murmur with a sigh,
And tell me it is time to fly:
And I will vow, will swear to go,
While still that sweet voice murmurs "No!"
Till slumber seal our weary sight —
And then, my love, my soul, "Good night!"

SONG.

WHY does azure deck the sky?
'Tis to be like thy looks of blue;
Why is red the rose's dye?
Because it is thy blushes' hue.
All that's fair, by Love's decree,
Has been made resembling thee!

Why is falling snow so white,
But to be like thy bosom fair?
Why are solar beams so bright?
That they may seem thy golden hair!
All that's bright, by Love's decree,
Has been made resembling thee!

Why are nature's beauties felt?
Oh! 'tis thine in her we see!
Why has music power to melt?
Oh! because it speaks like thee.
All that's sweet, by Love's decree,
Has been made resembling thee!

TO ROSA.

LIKE one who trusts to summer skies.
And puts his little bark to sea,
Is he who, lur'd by smiling eyes,
Consigns his simple heart to thee.

For fickle is the summer wind,
And sadly may the bark be tost;
For thou art sure to change thy mind,
And then the wretched heart is lost!

WRITTEN IN A COMMONPLACE BOOK, CALLED "THE BOOK OF FOLLIES;" IN WHICH EVERY ONE THAT OPENED IT WAS TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING.

TO THE BOOK OF FOLLIES.

THIS tribute's from a wretched elf,
Who hails thee, emblem of himself.
The book of life, which I have trac'd,
Has been, like thee, a motley waste
Of follies scribbled o'er and o'er,
One folly bringing hundreds more.
Some have indeed been writ so neat,
In characters so fair, so sweet,
That those who judge not too severely,
Have said they lov'd such follies dearly:
Yet still, O book! the allusion stands;
For these were penn'd by *female* hands:
The rest — alas! I own the truth —
Have all been scribbled so uncouth
That Prudence, with a with'ring look,
Disdainful, flings away the book.
Like thine, its pages here and there
Have oft been stain'd with blots of care;
And sometimes hours of peace, I own,
Upon some fairer leaves have shown,
White as the snowings of that heav'n
By which those hours of peace were given.
But now no longer — such, oh, such
The blast of Disappointment's touch! —
No longer now those hours appear;
Each leaf is sullied by a tear:
Blank, blank is ev'ry page with care,
Not ev'n a folly brightens there.
Will they yet brighten? — never, never!
Then *shut the book*, O God, for ever!

TO ROSA.

SAY, why should the girl of my soul be in tears
At a meeting of rapture like this,
When the glooms of the past and the sorrow of years
Have been paid by one moment of bliss?

Are they shed for that moment of blissful delight,
Which dwells on her memory yet?
Do they flow, like the dews of the love-breathing night,
From the warmth of the sun that has set?

Oh! sweet is the tear on that languishing smile,
That smile, which is loveliest then;
And if such are the drops that delight can beguile,
Thou shalt weep them again and again.

'LIGHT SOUNDS THE HARP.

LIGHT sounds the harp when the combat is over,
When heroes are resting, and joy is in bloom;
When laurels hang loose from the brow of the lover,
And Cupid makes wings of the warrior's plume.
But, when the foe returns,
Again the hero burns;
High flames the sword in his hand once more:
The clang of mingling arms
Is then the sound that charms,
And brazen notes of war, that stirring trumpets pour;—
Then, again comes the Harp, when the combat is over—
When heroes are resting, and Joy is in bloom—
When laurels hang loose from the brow of the lover,
And Cupid makes wings of the warrior's plume.

Light went the harp when the War-God, reclining,
Lay lull'd on the white arm of Beauty to rest,
When round his rich armour the myrtle hung twining,
And flights of young doves made his helmet their nest.
But, when the battle came,
The hero's eye breath'd flame:
Soon from his neck the white arm was flung;
While, to his wak'ning ear,
No other sounds were dear
But brazen notes of war, by thousand trumpets sung.
But then came the light harp, when danger was ended,
And Beauty once more lull'd the War-God to rest;
When tresses of gold with his laurels lay blended,
And flights of young doves made his helmet their nest.

[1] Εγχει, και παλιν ειπε, παλιν, παλιν, 'Ηλιοδωρας
Ειπε, συν ακρητω το γλυκυ μισγ' ονομα.
Και μοι τον βρεχθεντα μυρεις και χθιζον εοντα,
Μναμοσυνον κεινας, αμφιτιθει στεφανον.

FROM

THE GREEK OF MELEAGER.[1]

FILL high the cup with liquid flame,
And speak my Heliodora's name.
Repeat its magic o'er and o'er,
And let the sound my lips adore,
Live in the breeze, till every tone,
And word, and breath, speaks her alone.

Give me the wreath that withers there,
It was but last delicious night,
It circled her luxuriant hair,
And caught her eyes' reflected light.
Oh! haste, and twine it round my brow:
'Tis all of her that's left me now.
And see—each rosebud drops a tear,
To find the nymph no longer here—
No longer, where such heavenly charms
As hers *should* be—within these arms.

SONG.

FLY from the world, O Bessy! to me,
Thou wilt never find any sincerer;
I'll give up the world, O Bessy! for thee,
I can never meet any that's dearer.
Then tell me no more, with a tear and a sigh,
That our loves will be censur'd by many;
All, all have their follies, and who will deny
That ours is the sweetest of any?

When your lip has met mine, in communion so sweet,
Have we felt as if virtue forbid it?—
Have we felt as if heav'n denied them to meet?—
No, rather 'twas heav'n that did it.
So innocent, love, is the joy we then sip,
So little of wrong is there in it,
That I wish all my errors were lodg'd on your lip,
And I'd kiss them away in a minute.

Then come to your lover, oh! fly to his shed,
From a world which I know thou despisest;
And slumber will hover as light o'er our bed
As e'er on the couch of the wisest.

Δακρυει φιλεραστον ιδου ροδον, ουνεκα κεινην
Αλλοθι κ' ου κολπους ημετερους εσορα.
BRUNCK. *Analect.* tom. i. p. 28.

And when o'er our pillow the tempest is driven,
And thou, pretty innocent, fearest,
I'll tell thee, it is not the chiding of heav'n,
'Tis only our lullaby, dearest.

And, oh! while we lie on our deathbed, my love,
Looking back on the scene of our errors,
A sigh from my Bessy shall plead then above,
And Death be disarm'd of his terrors.
And each to the other embracing will say,
"Farewell! let us hope we're forgiven."
Thy last fading glance will illumine the way,
And a kiss be our passport to heaven!

THE RESEMBLANCE.

——— vo cercand' io,
Donna, quant' e possibile, in altrui
La desiata vostra forma vera.
PETRARC. *Sonnett.* 14.

YES, if 'twere any common love,
That led my pliant heart astray,
I grant, there's not a power above,
Could wipe the faithless crime away.

But, 'twas my doom to err with one
In every look so like to thee
That, underneath yon blessed sun,
So fair there are but thou and she.

Both born of beauty, at a birth,
She held with thine a kindred sway,
And wore the only shape on earth
That could have lur'd my soul to stray.

Then blame me not, if false I be,
'Twas love that wak'd the fond excess;
My heart had been more true to thee,
Had mine eye priz'd thy beauty less.

FANNY, DEAREST.

YES! had I leisure to sigh and mourn,
Fanny, dearest, for thee I'd sigh;
And every smile on my cheek should turn
To tears when thou art nigh.
But, between love, and wine, and sleep,
So busy a life I live,
That even the time it would take to weep
Is more than my heart can give.

Then bid me not to despair and pine,
Fanny, dearest of all the dears!
The Love that's order'd to bathe in wine,
Would be sure to take cold in tears.

Reflected bright in this heart of mine,
Fanny, dearest, thy image lies;
But, ah, the mirror would cease to shine,
If dimm'd too often with sighs.
They lose the half of beauty's light,
Who view it through sorrow's tear;
And 'tis but to see thee truly bright
That I keep my eye-beam clear.
Then wait no longer till tears shall flow,
Fanny, dearest — the hope is vain;
If sunshine cannot dissolve thy snow,
I shall never attempt it with rain.

THE RING.

TO

. . . . . .

No — Lady! Lady! keep the ring:
Oh! think, how many a future year,
Of placid smile and downy wing,
May sleep within its holy sphere.

Do not disturb their tranquil dream,
Though love hath ne'er the myst'ry warm'd;
Yet heav'n will shed a soothing beam,
To bless the bond itself hath form'd.

But then, that eye, that burning eye, —
Oh! it doth ask, with witching power,
If heaven can ever bless the tie
Where love inwreaths no genial flower?

Away, away, bewildering look,
Or all the boast of virtue's o'er;
Go — hie thee to the sage's book,
And learn from him to feel no more.

I cannot warn thee: every touch,
That brings my pulses close to thine,
Tells me I want thy aid as much —
Ev'n more, alas, than thou dost mine.

Yet, stay, — one hope, one effort yet —
A moment turn those eyes away,
And let me, if I can, forget
The light that leads my soul astray.

Thou say'st, that we were born to meet,
That our hearts bear one common seal; —
Think, Lady, think, how man's deceit
Can seem to sigh and feign to feel.

When, o'er thy face some gleam of thought,
Like daybeams through the morning air,
Hath gradual stole, and I have caught
The feeling ere it kindled there;

The sympathy I then betray'd,
Perhaps was but the child of art,
The guile of one, who long hath play'd
With all these wily nets of heart.

Oh! thine is not my earliest vow;
Though few the years I yet have told,
Canst thou believe I've liv'd till now,
With loveless heart or senses cold?

No — other nymphs to joy and pain
This wild and wandering heart hath mov'd;
With some it sported, wild and vain,
While some it dearly, truly, lov'd.

The cheek to thine I fondly lay,
To theirs hath been as fondly laid;
The words to thee I warmly say,
To them have been as warmly said.

Then, scorn at once a worthless heart,
Worthless alike, or fix'd or free;
Think of the pure, bright soul thou art,
And — love not me, oh love not me.

Enough — now, turn thine eyes again;
What, still that look and still that sigh!
Dost thou not feel my counsel then?
Oh! no, beloved, — nor do I.

TO

THE INVISIBLE GIRL.

They try to persuade me, my dear little sprite,
That you're *not* a true daughter of ether and light,
Nor have any concern with those fanciful forms
That dance upon rainbows and ride upon storms;
That, in short, you're a woman; your lip and your eye
As mortal as ever drew gods from the sky.
But I *will* not believe them — no, Science, to you
I have long bid a last and a careless adieu:
Still flying from Nature to study her laws,
And dulling delight by exploring its cause,
You forget how superior, for mortals below,
Is the fiction they dream to the truth that they know.
Oh! who, that has e'er enjoyed rapture complete,
Would ask *how* we feel it, or *why* it is sweet;
How rays are confus'd, or how particles fly
Through the medium refin'd of a glance or a sigh;
Is there one, who but once would not rather have known it,
Than written, with Harvey, whole volumes upon it?

As for you, my sweet-voiced and invisible love,
You must surely be one of those spirits, that rove
By the bank where, at twilight, the poet reclines,
When the star of the west on his solitude shines,
And the magical fingers of fancy have hung
Every breeze with a sigh, every leaf with a tongue.
Oh! hint to him then, 'tis retirement alone
Can hallow his harp or ennoble its tone;
Like you, with a veil of seclusion between,
His song to the world let him utter unseen,
And like you, a legitimate child of the spheres,
Escape from the eye to enrapture the ears.

Sweet spirit of mystery! how I should love,
In the wearisome ways I am fated to rove,
To have you thus ever invisibly nigh,
Inhaling for ever your song and your sigh!
Mid the crowds of the world and the murmurs of care,
I might sometimes converse with my nymph of the air,
And turn with distaste from the clamorous crew,
To steal in the pauses one whisper from you.

Then, come and be near me, for ever be mine,
We shall hold in the air a communion divine,
As sweet as, of old, was imagin'd to dwell
In the grotto of Numa, or Socrates' cell.
And oft, at those lingering moments of night,
When the heart's busy thoughts have put slumber to flight,
You shall come to my pillow and tell me of love,
Such as angel to angel might whisper above.
Sweet spirit! — and then, could you borrow the tone
Of that voice, to my ear like some fairy-song known,
The voice of the one upon earth, who has twin'd
With her being for ever my heart and my mind,
Though lonely and far from the light of her smile,
An exile, and weary and hopeless the while,
Could you shed for a moment her voice on my ear,
I will think, for that moment, that Cara is near;

That she comes with consoling enchantment to speak,
And kisses my eyelid and breathes on my cheek,
And tells me, the night shall go rapidly by,
For the dawn of our hope, of our heaven is nigh.

Fair spirit! if such be your magical power,
It will lighten the lapse of full many an hour;
And, let fortune's realities frown as they will,
Hope, fancy, and Cara may smile for me still.

THE RING.[1]

A TALE.

Annulus ille viri. — Ovid. *Amor.* lib. ii. eleg. 15.

The happy day at length arriv'd
When Rupert was to wed
The fairest maid in Saxony,
And take her to his bed.

As soon as morn was in the sky,
The feast and sports began;
The men admir'd the happy maid,
The maids the happy man.

In many a sweet device of mirth
The day was pass'd along;
And some the featly dance amus'd,
And some the dulcet song.

The younger maids with Isabel
Disported through the bowers,
And deck'd her robe, and crown'd her head
With motley bridal flowers.

The matrons all in rich attire,
Within the castle walls,
Sat listening to the choral strains
That echo'd through the halls.

Young Rupert and his friends repair'd
Unto a spacious court,
To strike the bounding tennis-ball
In feat and manly sport.

The bridegroom on his finger wore
The wedding-ring so bright,
Which was to grace the lily hand
Of Isabel that night.

And fearing he might break the gem,
Or lose it in the play,
He look'd around the court, to see
Where he the ring might lay.

Now, in the court a statue stood,
Which there full long had been;
It might a Heathen goddess be,
Or else, a Heathen queen.

Upon its marble finger then
He tried the ring to fit;
And, thinking it was safest there,
Thereon he fasten'd it.

And now the tennis sports went on,
Till they were wearied all,
And messengers announc'd to them
Their dinner in the hall.

Young Rupert for his wedding-ring
Unto the statue went;
But, oh, how shock'd was he to find
The marble finger bent!

The hand was clos'd upon the ring
With firm and mighty clasp;
In vain he tried, and tried, and tried,
He could not lose the grasp!

Then sore surpris'd was Rupert's mind—
As well his mind might be;
"I'll come," quoth he, "at night again,
"When none are here to see."

He went unto the feast, and much
He thought upon his ring;
And marvell'd sorely what could mean
So very strange a thing!

The feast was o'er, and to the court
He hied without delay,
Resolv'd to break the marble hand
And force the ring away.

[1] I should be sorry to think that my friend had any serious intentions of frightening the nursery by this story: I rather hope — though the manner of it leads me to doubt — that his design was to ridicule that distempered taste which prefers those monsters of the fancy to the "speciosa miracula" of true poetic imagination.

I find, by a note in the manuscript, that he met with this story in a German author, *Fromman upon Fascination*, book iii. part vi. ch. 18. On consulting the work, I perceive that Fromman quotes it from Beluacensis, among many other stories equally diabolical and interesting. E.

But, mark a stranger wonder still—
The ring was there no more,
And yet the marble hand ungrasp'd,
And open as before!

He search'd the base, and all the court,
But nothing could he find;
Then to the castle hied he back
With sore bewilder'd mind.

Within he found them all in mirth,
The night in dancing flew;
The youth another ring procur'd,
And none the adventure knew.

And now the priest has join'd their hands,
The hours of love advance:
Rupert almost forgets to think
Upon the morn's mischance.

Within the bed fair Isabel
In blushing sweetness lay,
Like flowers, half-open'd by the dawn,
And waiting for the day.

And Rupert, by her lovely side,
In youthful beauty glows,
Like Phœbus, when he bends to cast
His beams upon a rose.

And here my song would leave them both,
Nor let the rest be told,
If 'twere not for the horrid tale
It yet has to unfold.

Soon Rupert, 'twixt his bride and him,
A death cold carcass found;
He saw it not, but thought he felt
Its arms embrace him round.

He started up, and then return'd,
But found the phantom still;
In vain he shrunk, it clipp'd him round,
With damp and deadly chill!

And when he bent, the earthy lips
A kiss of horror gave;
'Twas like the smell from charnel vaults,
Or from the mould'ring grave!

Ill fated Rupert!—wild and loud
Then cried he to his wife,
"Oh! save me from this horrid fiend,
"My Isabel! my life!"

But Isabel had nothing seen,
She look'd around in vain;
And much she mourn'd the mad conceit
That rack'd her Rupert's brain.

At length from this invisible
These words to Rupert came:
(Oh God! while he did hear the words
What terrors shook his frame!)

"Husband, husband, I've the ring
"Thou gav'st to-day to me;
"And thou'rt to me for ever wed,
"As I am wed to thee!"

And all the night the demon lay
Cold-chilling by his side,
And strain'd him with such deadly grasp,
He thought he should have died.

But when the dawn of day was near,
The horrid phantom fled,
And left th' affrighted youth to weep
By Isabel in bed.

And all that day a gloomy cloud
Was seen on Rupert's brows;
Fair Isabel was likewise sad,
But strove to cheer her spouse.

And, as the day advanc'd, he thought
Of coming night with fear:
Alas, that he should dread to view
The bed that should be dear!

At length the second night arriv'd,
Again their couch they press'd;
Poor Rupert hop'd that all was o'er,
And look'd for love and rest.

But oh! when midnight came, again
The fiend was at his side,
And, as it strain'd him in its grasp,
With howl exulting cried:—

"Husband, husband, I've the ring,
"The ring thou gav'st to me;
"And thou'rt to me for ever wed,
"As I am wed to thee!"

In agony of wild despair,
He started from the bed;
And thus to his bewilder'd wife
The trembling Rupert said:

"Oh Isabel! dost thou not see
"A shape of horrors here,
"That strains me to its deadly kiss,
"And keeps me from my dear?"

"No, no, my love! my Rupert, I
"No shape of horrors see;
"And much I mourn the phantasy
"That keeps my dear from me."

This night, just like the night before,
In terrors pass'd away,
Nor did the demon vanish thence
Before the dawn of day.

Said Rupert then, "My Isabel,
"Dear partner of my woe,
"To Father Austin's holy cave
"This instant will I go."

Now Austin was a reverend man,
Who acted wonders maint—
Whom all the country round believ'd
A devil or a saint!

To Father Austin's holy cave
Then Rupert straightway went;
And told him all, and ask'd him how
These horrors to prevent.

The Father heard the youth, and then
Retir'd awhile to pray;
And, having pray'd for half an hour
Thus to the youth did say:

"There is a place where four roads meet,
"Which I will tell to thee;
"Be there this eve, at fall of night,
"And list what thou shalt see.

"Thou'lt see a group of figures pass
"In strange disorder'd crowd,
"Travelling by torchlight through the roads,
"With noises strange and loud.

"And one that's high above the rest,
"Terrific towering o'er,
"Will make thee know him at a glance,
"So I need say no more.

"To him from me these tablets give,
"They'll quick be understood;
"Thou need'st not fear, but give them straight,
"I've scrawl'd them with my blood!"

The night-fall came, and Rupert all
In pale amazement went
To where the cross-roads met, as he
Was by the Father sent.

And lo! a group of figures came
In strange disorder'd crowd,
Travelling by torchlight through the roads,
With noises strange and loud.

And, as the gloomy train advanc'd,
Rupert beheld from far
A female form of wanton mien
High seated on a car.

And Rupert, as he gaz'd upon
The loosely vested dame,
Thought of the marble statue's look,
For hers was just the same.

Behind her walk'd a hideous form,
With eyeballs flashing death;
Whene'er he breath'd, a sulphur'd smoke
Came burning in his breath.

He seem'd the first of all the crowd,
Terrific towering o'er;
"Yes, yes," said Rupert, "this is he,
"And I need ask no more."

Then slow he went, and to this fiend
The tablets trembling gave,
Who look'd and read them with a yell
That would disturb the grave.

And when he saw the blood-scrawl'd name,
His eyes with fury shine;
"I thought," cries he, "his time was out,"
"But he must soon be mine!"

Then darting at the youth a look
Which rent his soul with fear,
He went unto the female fiend,
And whisper'd in her ear.

The female fiend no sooner heard
Than, with reluctant look,
The very ring that Rupert lost,
She from her finger took.

And, giving it unto the youth,
With eyes that breath'd of hell,
She said, in that tremendous voice,
Which he remember'd well:

"In Austin's name take back the ring,
"The ring thou gav'st to me;
"And thou'rt to me no longer wed,
"Nor longer I to thee."

He took the ring, the rabble pass'd,
He home return'd again;
His wife was then the happiest fair,
The happiest he of men.

TO

. . . . . .

ON SEEING HER WITH A WHITE VEIL AND A RICH GIRDLE.

Μαργαρίται δηλουσι δακρυων ῥοον.
Ap. NICEPHOR. *in Oneirocritico.*

PUT off the vestal veil, nor, oh!
Let weeping angels view it;
Your cheeks belie its virgin snow,
And blush repenting through it.

Put off the fatal zone you wear;
The shining pearls around it
Are tears, that fell from Virtue there,
The hour when Love unbound it.

WRITTEN IN THE BLANK LEAF OF A LADY'S COMMONPLACE BOOK.

HERE is one leaf reserv'd for me,
From all thy sweet memorials free;
And here my simple song might tell
The feelings thou must guess so well.
But could I thus, within thy mind,
One little vacant corner find,
Where no impression yet is seen,
Where no memorial yet hath been,
Oh! it should be my sweetest care
To *write my name* for ever *there!*

TO

MRS. BL——.

WRITTEN IN HER ALBUM.

THEY say that Love had once a book
(The urchin likes to copy you),
Where, all who came, the pencil took,
And wrote, like us, a line or two.

'Twas Innocence, the maid divine,
Who kept this volume bright and fair,
And saw that no unhallow'd line
Or thought profane should enter there;

And daily did the pages fill
With fond device and loving lore,
And every leaf she turn'd was still
More bright than that she turn'd before.

Beneath the touch of Hope, how soft
How light the magic pencil ran!
Till Fear would come, alas, as oft,
And trembling close what Hope began.

A tear or two had dropp'd from Grief,
And Jealousy would, now and then,
Ruffle in haste some snow-white leaf,
Which Love had still to smooth again.

But, ah! there came a blooming boy,
Who often turn'd the pages o'er,
And wrote therein such words of joy,
That all who read them sigh'd for more.

And Pleasure was this spirit's name,
And though so soft his voice and look,
Yet Innocence, whene'er he came,
Would tremble for her spotless book.

For, oft a Bacchant cup he bore,
With earth's sweet nectar sparkling bright;
And much she fear'd lest, mantling o'er,
Some drops should on the pages light.

And so it chanc'd, one luckless night,
The urchin let that goblet fall
O'er the fair book, so pure, so white,
And sullied lines and marge and all!

In vain now, touch'd with shame, he tried
To wash those fatal stains away;
Deep, deep had sunk the sullying tide,
The leaves grew darker every day.

And Fancy's sketches lost their hue,
And Hope's sweet lines were all effac'd,
And Love himself now scarcely knew
What Love himself so lately trac'd.

At length the urchin Pleasure fled,
(For how, alas! could Pleasure stay?)
And Love, while many a tear he shed,
Reluctant flung the book away.

The index now alone remains,
Of all the pages spoil'd by Pleasure,
And though it bears some earthy stains,
Yet Memory counts the leaf a treasure.

And oft, they say, she scans it o'er,
And oft, by this memorial aided,
Brings back the pages now no more,
And thinks of lines that long have faded.

I know not if this tale be true,
But thus the simple facts are stated;
And I refer their truth to you,
Since Love and you are near related.

TO

CARA,

AFTER AN INTERVAL OF ABSENCE.

CONCEAL'D within the shady wood
A mother left her sleeping child,
And flew, to cull her rustic food,
The fruitage of the forest wild.

But storms upon her pathway rise,
The mother roams, astray and weeping;
Far from the weak appealing cries
Of him she left so sweetly sleeping.

She hopes, she fears; a light is seen,
And gentler blows the night wind's breath;
Yet no — 'tis gone — the storms are keen,
The infant may be chill'd to death!

Perhaps, ev'n now, in darkness shrouded,
His little eyes lie cold and still; —
And yet, perhaps, they are not clouded,
Life and love may light them still.

Thus, Cara, at our last farewell,
When, fearful ev'n thy hand to touch,
I mutely ask'd those eyes to tell
If parting pain'd thee half so much:

I thought, — and, oh! forgive the thought,
For none was e'er by love inspir'd
Whom fancy had not also taught
To hope the bliss his soul desir'd.

Yes, I *did* think, in Cara's mind,
Though yet to that sweet mind unknown,
I left one infant wish behind,
One feeling, which I call'd my own.

Oh blest! though but in fancy blest,
How did I ask of Pity's care,
To shield and strengthen, in thy breast,
The nursling I had cradled there.

And, many an hour, beguil'd by pleasure,
And many an hour of sorrow numb'ring,
I ne'er forgot the new-born treasure,
I left within thy bosom slumb'ring.

Perhaps, indifference has not chill'd it,
Haply, it yet a throb may give —
Yet, no — perhaps, a doubt has kill'd it;
Say, dearest — *does* the feeling live?

TO

CARA,

ON THE DAWNING OF A NEW YEAR'S DAY.

WHEN midnight came to close the year,
We sigh'd to think it thus should take
The hours it gave us — hours as dear
As sympathy and love could make
Their blessed moments, — every sun
Saw us, my love, more closely one.

But, Cara, when the dawn was nigh
Which came a new year's light to shed,
That smile we caught from eye to eye
Told us, those moments were not fled:
Oh, no, — we felt, some future sun
Should see us still more closely one.

Thus may we ever, side by side,
From happy years to happier glide;
And still thus may the passing sigh
We give to hours, that vanish o'er us,
Be follow'd by the smiling eye,
That Hope shall shed on scenes before us!

TO

. . . . . ., 1801.

To be the theme of every hour
The heart devotes to Fancy's power,
When her prompt magic fills the mind
With friends and joys we've left behind,
And joys return and friends are near,
And all are welcom'd with a tear: —
In the mind's purest seat to dwell,
To be remember'd oft and well
By one whose heart, though vain and wild,
By passion led, by youth beguil'd,
Can proudly still aspire to be
All that may yet win smiles from thee: —
If thus to live in every part
Of a lone, weary wanderer's heart;
If thus to be its sole employ
Can give thee one faint gleam of joy,
Believe it, Mary, — oh! believe
A tongue that never can deceive,
Though, erring, it too oft betray
Ev'n more than Love should dare to say, —
In Pleasure's dream or Sorrow's hour,
In crowded hall or lonely bower,

The business of my life shall be,
For ever to remember thee.
And though that heart be dead to mine,
Since Love is life and wakes not thine,
I'll take thy image, as the form
Of one whom Love had fail'd to warm,
Which, though it yield no answering thrill,
Is not less dear, is worshipp'd still—
I'll take it, wheresoe'er I stray,
The bright, cold burden of my way.
To keep this semblance fresh in bloom,
My heart shall be its lasting tomb,
And Memory, with embalming care,
Shall keep it fresh and fadeless there.

THE

GENIUS OF HARMONY

AN IRREGULAR ODE.

Ad harmoniam canere mundum.
CICERO *de Nat. Deor.* lib. iii.

THERE lies a shell beneath the waves,
In many a hollow winding wreath'd,
Such as of old
Echoed the breath that warbling sea-maids breath'd;
This magic shell,
From the white bosom of a syren fell,
As once she wander'd by the tide that laves
Sicilia's sands of gold.

It bears
Upon its shining side the mystic notes
Of those entrancing airs,[1]
The genii of the deep were wont to swell,
When heaven's eternal orbs their midnight music
Oh! seek it, wheresoe'er it floats; [roll'd!
And, if the power
Of thrilling numbers to thy soul be dear,
Go, bring the bright shell to my bower,
And I will fold thee in such downy dreams
As lap the Spirit of the Seventh Sphere,
When Luna's distant tone falls faintly on his ear![2]
And thou shalt own,
That, through the circle of creation's zone,
Where matter slumbers or where spirit beams;
From the pellucid tides[3], that whirl
The planets through their maze of song,
To the small rill, that weeps along
Murmuring o'er beds of pearl;
From the rich sigh
Of the sun's arrow through an evening sky,[4]
To the faint breath the tuneful osier yields
On Afric's burning fields;[5]
Thou'lt wondering own this universe divine
Is mine!
That I respire in all and all in me,
One mighty mingled soul of boundless harmony.

Welcome, welcome, mystic shell!
Many a star has ceas'd to burn,[6]
Many a tear has Saturn's urn
O'er the cold bosom of the ocean wept,[7]

[1] In the "Histoire Naturelle des Antilles," there is an account of some curious shells, found at Curaçoa, on the back of which were lines, filled with musical characters so distinct and perfect, that the writer assures us a very charming trio was sung from one of them. "On le nomme musical, parcequ'il porte sur le dos des lignes noirâtres pleines de notes, qui ont une espèce de clé pour les mettre en chant, de sorte que l'on diroit qu'il ne manque que la lettre à cette tablature naturelle. Ce curieux gentilhomme (M. du Montel) rapporte qu'il en a vû qui avoient cinq lignes, une clé, et des notes, qui fermoient un accord parfait. Quelqu'un y avoit ajouté la lettre, que la nature avoit oubliée, et la faisoit chanter en forme de trio, dont l'air étoit fort agréable."— Chap. xix. art. 11. The author adds, a poet might imagine that these shells were used by the syrens at their concerts.

[2] According to Cicero, and his commentator, Macrobius, the lunar tone is the gravest and faintest on the planetary heptachord. "Quam ob causam summus ille cœli stellifer cursus, cujus conversio est concitatior, acuto et excitato movetur sono; gravissimo autem hic lunaris atque infimus." — *Somn. Scip.* Because, says Macrobius, "spiritu ut in extremitate languescente jam volvitur, et propter angustias quibus penultimus orbis arctatur impetu leniore convertitur." — In *Somn. Scip.* lib. ii. cap. 4. In their musical arrangement of the heavenly bodies, the ancient writers are not very intelligible. — See *Ptolem.* lib. iii.

Leone Hebreo, in pursuing the idea of Aristotle, that the heavens are animal, attributes their harmony to perfect and reciprocal love. "Non pero manca fra loro il perfetto et reciproco amore: la causa principale, che ne mostra il loro amore, è la lor amicitia armonica et la concordanza, che perpetuamente si trova in loro." — Dialog. ii. di Amore, p. 58. This "reciproco amore" of Leone is the φιλοτης of the ancient Empedocles, who seems, in his Love and Hate of the Elements, to have given a glimpse of the principles of attraction and repulsion. See the fragment to which I allude in Laertius, Αλλοτε μεν φιλοτητι, συνερχομεν', κ. τ. λ., lib. viii. cap. 2. n. 12.

[3] Leucippus, the atomist, imagined a kind of vortices in the heavens, which he borrowed from Anaxagoras, and possibly suggested to Descartes.

[4] Heraclides, upon the allegories of Homer, conjectures that the idea of the harmony of the spheres originated with this poet, who, in representing the solar beams as arrows, supposes them to emit a peculiar sound in the air.

[5] In the account of Africa which D'Ablancourt has translated, there is mention of a tree in that country, whose branches when shaken by the hand produce very sweet sounds. "Le même auteur (Abenzégar) dit, qu'il y a un certain arbre, qui produit des gaules comme d'osier, et qu'en les prenant à la main et les branlant, elles font une espèce d'harmonie fort agréable," &c. &c. — *L'Afrique de Marmol.*

[6] Alluding to the extinction, or at least the disappearance, of some of those fixed stars, which we are taught to consider as suns, attended each by its system. Descartes thought that our earth might formerly have been a sun, which became obscured by a thick incrustation over its surface. This probably suggested the idea of a central fire.

[7] Porphyry says, that Pythagoras held the sea to be a tear, Την θαλατταν μεν ειναι δακρυον (De Vitâ); and some

Since thy aërial spell
Hath in the waters slept.
Now blest I'll fly
With the bright treasure to my choral sky,
Where she, who wak'd its early swell,
The Syren of the heavenly choir,
Walks o'er the great string of my Orphic Lyre;[1]
Or guides around the burning pole
The winged chariot of some blissful soul:[2]
While thou—
Oh son of earth, what dreams shall rise for thee!
Beneath Hispania's sun,
Thou'lt see a streamlet run,
Which I've imbued with breathing melody;[3]
And there, when night-winds down the current die,
Thou'lt hear how like a harp its waters sigh:
A liquid chord is every wave that flows,
An airy plectrum every breeze that blows.[4]

There, by that wondrous stream,
Go, lay thy languid brow,
And I will send thee such a godlike dream,
As never bless'd the slumbers even of him,[5]
Who, many a night, with his primordial lyre,[6]
Sate on the chill Pangæan mount,[7]
And, looking to the orient dim,
Watch'd the first flowing of that sacred fount,
From which his soul had drunk its fire.

Oh! think what visions, in that lonely hour,
Stole o'er his musing breast;
What pious ecstasy[8]
Wafted his prayer to that eternal Power,
Whose seal upon this new-born world imprest[9]
The various forms of bright divinity!
Or, dost thou know what dreams I wove,
'Mid the deep horror of that silent bower,[10]
Where the rapt Samian slept his holy slumber?
When, free
From earthly chain,
From wreaths of pleasure and from bonds of pain,
His spirit flew through fields above,
Drank at the source of nature's fontal number,[11]
And saw, in mystic choir, around him move
The stars of song, Heaven's burning minstrelsy!
Such dreams, so heavenly bright,
I swear
By the great diadem that twines my hair,
And by the seven gems that sparkle there[12],
Mingling their beams
In a soft iris of harmonious light,
Oh, mortal! such shall be thy radiant dreams.

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one else, if I mistake not, has added the planet Saturn as the source of it. Empedocles, with similar affectation, called the sea "the sweat of the earth:" ἱδρωτα της γης. See *Rittershusius upon Porphyry*, Num. 41.

[1] The system of the harmonized orbs was styled by the ancients the Great Lyre of Orpheus, for which Lucian thus accounts:—ἡ δε Λυρη ἑπταμιτος ουσα την των κινουμενων αστερων ἁρμονιαν συνεζαλλετο, κ. τ. λ. in *Astrolog.*

[2] Διιλε ψυχας ισαριθμους τοις ἀστροις, ενειμε δ' ἑκαστην προς ἑκαστον, και ἐμβιβασας 'ΩΣ ΕΙΣ ΟΧΗΜΑ—"Distributing the souls severally among the stars, and mounting each soul upon a star as on its chariot."—*Plato, Timæus.*

[3] This musical river is mentioned in the romance of Achilles Tatius. Επει ποταμου . . ην δε ακουσαι θελης του ὑδατος λαλουντος. The Latin version, in supplying the hiatus which is in the original, has placed the river in Hispania. "In Hispaniâ quoque fluvius est, quem primo aspectu," &c. &c.

[4] These two lines are translated from the words of Achilles Tatius. Εαν γαρ ολιγος ανεμος εις τας δινας ἐμπεση, το μεν ὑδωρ ὡς χορδη κρουεται, το δε πνευμα του ὑδατος πληκτρον γινεται. το ῥευμα δε ὡς κιθαρα λαλει.—Lib. ii.

[5] Orpheus.

[6] They called his lyre αρχαιοτερον ἑπτακορδον Ορφεως. See a curious work by a professor of Greek at Venice, entitled "Hebdomades, sive septem de septenario libri."—Lib. iv. cap. 3. p. 177.

[7] Eratosthenes, in mentioning the extreme veneration of Orpheus for Apollo, says that he was accustomed to go to the Pangæan mountain at day-break, and there wait the rising of the sun, that he might be the first to hail its beams. Επιγειρουμενος τε της νυκτος, κατα την ἑωθινην ἐπι το ορος το καλουμενον Παγγαιον, προσεμενε τας ανατολας, ἱνα ἰδη τον Ἡλιον πρωτον.—Κατασπερισμ. 24.

[8] There are some verses of Orpheus preserved to us, which contain sublime ideas of the unity and magnificence of the Deity. For instance, those which Justin *Martyr* has produced:

Ούτος μεν χαλκειον ες ουρανον ἑστηριχται
Χρυσειω ενι θρονω, κ. τ. λ. *Ad Græc. Cohortat.*

It is thought by some, that these are to be reckoned amongst the fabrications, which were frequent in the early times of Christianity. Still, it appears doubtful to whom they are to be attributed, being too pious for the Pagans, and too poetical for the Fathers.

[9] In one of the Hymns of Orpheus, he attributes a figured seal to Apollo, with which he imagines that deity to have stamped a variety of forms upon the universe.

[10] Alluding to the cave near Samos, where Pythagoras devoted the greater part of his days and nights to meditation and the mysteries of his philosophy. *Iamblich. de Vit.* This, as Holstenius remarks, was in imitation of the Magi.

[11] The tetractys, or sacred number of the Pythagoreans, on which they solemnly swore, and which they called παγαν ἀενασου φυσεως, "the fountain of perennial nature." Lucian has ridiculed this religious arithmetic very cleverly in his Sale of Philosophers.

[12] This diadem is intended to represent the analogy between the notes of music and the prismatic colours. We find in Plutarch a vague intimation of this kindred harmony in colours and sounds.—Οψις τε και ακοη, μεταφωνης τε και φωτος την ἁρμονιαν ἐπιφαινουσι.—*De Musica.*

Cassiodorus, whose idea I may be supposed to have borrowed, says, in a letter upon music to Boetius, "Ut diadema oculis, varia luce gemmarum, sic cythara diversitate soni, blanditur auditui." This is indeed the only tolerable thought in the letter.—Lib. ii. Variar.

I FOUND her not—the chamber seem'd
Like some divinely haunted place,
Where fairy forms had lately beam'd,
And left behind their odorous trace!

It felt, as if her lips had shed
A sigh around her, ere she fled,
Which hung, as on a melting lute,
When all the silver chords are mute,
There lingers still a trembling breath
After the note's luxurious death,
A shade of song, a spirit air
Of melodies which had been there.

I saw the veil, which, all the day,
Had floated o'er her cheek of rose;
I saw the couch, where late she lay
In languor of divine repose;
And I could trace the hallow'd print
Her limbs had left, as pure and warm
As if 'twere done in rapture's mint,
And Love himself had stamp'd the form.

Oh my sweet mistress, where wert thou?
In pity fly not thus from me;
Thou art my life, my essence now,
And my soul dies of wanting thee.

TO

MRS. HENRY TIGHE,

ON READING HER "PSYCHE."

TELL me the witching tale again,
For never has my heart or ear
Hung on so sweet, so pure a strain,
So pure to feel, so sweet to hear.

Say, Love, in all thy prime of fame,
When the high heaven itself was thine;
When piety confess'd the flame,
And even thy errors were divine;

Did ever Muse's hand, so fair,
A glory round thy temples spread?
Did ever lip's ambrosial air
Such fragrance o'er thy altars shed?

One maid there was, who round her lyre
The mystic myrtle wildly wreath'd;—
But all *her* sighs were sighs of fire,
The myrtle wither'd as she breath'd.

Oh! you, that love's celestial dream,
In all its purity, would know,
Let not the senses' ardent beam
Too strongly through the vision glow.

Love safest lies, conceal'd in night,
The night were heaven has bid him lie;
Oh! shed not there unhallow'd light,
Or, Psyche knows, the boy will fly.[1]

Sweet Psyche, many a charmed hour,
Through many a wild and magic waste,
To the fair fount and blissful bower[2]
Have I, in dreams, thy light foot trac'd!

Where'er thy joys are number'd now,
Beneath whatever shades of rest,
The Genius of the starry brow[3]
Hath bound thee to thy Cupid's breast;

Whether above the horizon dim,
Along whose verge our spirits stray,—
Half sunk beneath the shadowy rim,
Half brighten'd by the upper ray[4],—

Thou dwellest in a world, all light,
Or, lingering here, dost love to be,
To other souls, the guardian bright
That Love was, through this gloom, to thee;

[1] See the Story in Apuleius. With respect to this beautiful allegory of Love and Psyche, there is an ingenious idea suggested by the senator Buonarotti, in his "Osservazioni sopra alcuni frammenti di vasi antichi." He thinks the fable is taken from some very occult mysteries, which had long been celebrated in honour of Love; and accounts, upon this supposition, for the silence of the more ancient authors upon the subject, as it was not till towards the decline of pagan superstition, that writers could venture to reveal or discuss such ceremonies. Accordingly, observes this author, we find Lucian and Plutarch treating, without reserve, of the Dea Syria, as well as of Isis and Osiris; and Apuleius, to whom we are indebted for the beautiful story of Cupid and Psyche, has also detailed some of the mysteries of Isis. See the Giornale di Litterati d'Italia, tom. xxvii. articol. 1. See also the observations upon the ancient gems in the Museum Florentinum, vol. i. p. 156.

I cannot avoid remarking here an error into which the French Encyclopédistes have been led by M. Spon, in their article Psyche. They say "Pétrone fait un récit de la pompe nuptiale de ces deux amans (Amour et Psyche). Déjà, dit-il," &c. &c. The Psyche of Petronius, however, is a servant-maid, and the marriage which he describes is that of the young Pannychis. See Spon's Recherches curieuses, &c. Dissertat. 5.

[2] Allusions to Mrs. Tighe's Poem.

[3] Constancy.

[4] By this image the Platonists expressed the middle state of the soul between sensible and intellectual existence.

Still be the song to Psyche dear,
The song, whose gentle voice was given
To be, on earth, to mortal ear,
An echo of her own, in heaven.

FROM

THE HIGH PRIEST OF APOLLO

TO

A VIRGIN OF DELPHI.[1]

Cum digno digna . . . . .
SULPICIA.

" Who is the maid, with golden hair,
" With eye of fire, and foot of air,
" Whose harp around my altar swells,
" The sweetest of a thousand shells? "
'Twas thus the deity, who treads
The arch of heaven, and proudly sheds
Day from his eyelids — thus he spoke,
As through my cell his glories broke.

Aphelia is the Delphic fair,[2]
With eyes of fire and golden hair,
Aphelia's are the airy feet,
And hers the harp divinely sweet;
For foot so light has never trod
The laurel'd caverns[3] of the god,
Nor harp so soft hath ever given
A sigh to earth or hymn to heaven.

" Then tell the virgin to unfold,
" In looser pomp, her locks of gold,
" And bid those eyes more fondly shine
" To welcome down a Spouse Divine;
" Since He, who lights the path of years —
" Even from the fount of morning's tears
" To where his setting splendours burn
" Upon the western sea-maids urn —
" Doth not, in all his course, behold
" Such eyes of fire, such hair of gold.
" Tell her, he comes, in blissful pride,
" His lip yet sparkling with the tide
" That mantles in Olympian bowls, —
" The nectar of eternal souls!
" For her, for her he quits the skies,
" And to her kiss from nectar flies.
" Oh, he would quit his star-thron'd height,
" And leave the world to pine for light,
" Might he but pass the hours of shade,
" Beside his peerless Delphic maid,
" She, more than earthly woman blest,
" He, more than god on woman's breast!"

There is a cave beneath the steep,[4]
Where living rills of crystal weep
O'er herbage of the loveliest hue
That ever spring begemm'd with dew:
There oft the greensward's glossy tint
Is brighten'd by the recent print
Of many a faun and naiad's feet, —
Scarce touching earth, their step so fleet, —
That there, by moonlight's ray, had trod,
In light dance, o'er the verdant sod.
" There, there," the god, impassion'd, said,
" Soon as the twilight tinge is fled,
" And the dim orb of lunar souls[5]
" Along its shadowy pathway rolls —
" There shall we meet, — and not ev'n He,
" The God who reigns immortally,
" Where Babel's turrets paint their pride
" Upon th' Euphrates' shining tide[6], —
" Not ev'n when to his midnight loves
" In mystic majesty he moves,
" Lighted by many an odorous fire,
" And hymn'd by all Chaldæa's choir, —

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[1] This poem, as well as a few others that occur afterwards, formed part of a work which I had early projected, and even announced to the public, but which, luckily perhaps for myself, had been interrupted by my visit to America in the year 1803.

Among those impostures in which the priests of the pagan temples are known to have indulged, one of the most favourite was that of announcing to some fair votary of the shrine, that the God himself had become enamoured of her beauty, and would descend in all his glory, to pay her a visit within the recesses of the fane. An adventure of this description formed an episode in the classic romance which I had sketched out; and the short fragment, given above, belongs to an epistle by which the story was to have been introduced.

[2] In the 9th Pythic of Pindar, where Apollo, in the same manner, requires of Chiron some information respecting the fair Cyrene, the Centaur, in obeying, very gravely apologizes for telling the God what his omniscience must know so perfectly already:

Ει δε γε χρη και παρ σοφον αντιφερειξαι,
Εγεω.

[3] Αλλ' εις δαφνωδη γυαλα βησομαι ταδε.
EURIPID. *Ion.* v. 76.

[4] The Corycian Cave, which Pausanias mentions. The inhabitants of Parnassus held it sacred to the Corycian nymphs, who were children of the river Plistus.

[5] See a preceding note, p. 25. n. 2. It should seem that lunar spirits were of a purer order than spirits in general, as Pythagoras was said by his followers to have descended from the regions of the moon. The heresiarch Manes, in the same manner, imagined that the sun and moon are the residence of Christ, and that the ascension was nothing more than his flight to those orbs.

[6] The temple of Jupiter Belus, at Babylon; in one of whose towers there was a large chapel set apart for these celestial assignations. " No man is allowed to sleep here," says Herodotus; " but the apartment is appropriated to a female, whom, if we believe the Chaldæan priests, the deity selects from the women of the country, as his favourite." Lib. i. cap. 181.

" E'er yet, o'er mortal brow, let shine
" Such effluence of Love Divine,
" As shall to-night, blest maid, o'er thine."

Happy the maid, whom heaven allows
To break for heaven her virgin vows!
Happy the maid! — her robe of shame
Is whiten'd by a heavenly flame,
Whose glory, with a ling'ring trace,
Shines through and deifies her race![1]

FRAGMENT.

Pity me, love! I'll pity thee,
If thou indeed has felt like me.
All, all my bosom's peace is o'er!
At night, which *was* my hour of calm,
When, from the page of classic lore,
From the pure fount of ancient lay
My soul has drawn the placid balm,
Which charm'd its every grief away,
Ah! there I find that balm no more.
Those spells, which make us oft forget
The fleeting troubles of the day,
In deeper sorrows only whet
The stings they cannot tear away
When to my pillow rack'd I fly,
With wearied sense and wakeful eye:
While my brain maddens, where, oh, where
Is that serene consoling pray'r,
Which once has harbinger'd my rest,
When the still soothing voice of Heaven
Hath seem'd to whisper in my breast,
" Sleep on, thy errors are forgiven!"
No, though I still in semblance pray,
My thoughts are wand'ring far away
And ev'n the name of Deity
Is murmur'd out in sighs for thee.

A NIGHT THOUGHT.

How oft a cloud, with envious veil,
Obscures yon bashful light,
Which seems so modestly to steal
Along the waste of night!

'Tis thus the world's obtrusive wrongs
Obscure with malice keen
Some timid heart, which only longs
To live and die unseen.

THE KISS.

Grow to my lip, thou sacred kiss,
On which my soul's beloved swore
That there should come a time of bliss,
When she would mock my hopes no more.
And fancy shall thy glow renew,
In sighs at morn, and dreams at night,
And none shall steal thy holy dew
Till thou'rt absolv'd by rapture's rite.
Sweet hours that are to make me blest,
Fly, swift as breezes, to the goal,
And let my love, my more than soul
Come blushing to this ardent breast.
Then, while in every glance I drink
The rich o'erflowings of her mind,
Oh! let her all enamour'd sink
In sweet abandonment resign'd,
Blushing for all our struggles past,
And murmuring, " I am thine at last!"

SONG.

Think on that look whose melting ray
For one sweet moment mix'd with mine,
And for that moment seem'd to say,
" I dare not, or I would be thine!"

Think on thy ev'ry smile and glance,
On all thou hast to charm and move;
And then forgive my bosom's trance,
Nor tell me it is sin to love.

Oh, *not* to love thee were the sin;
For sure, if Fate's decrees be done,
Thou, thou art destin'd still to win,
As I am destin'd to be won!

[1] Fontenelle, in his playful *rifacimento* of the learned materials of Van-Dale, has related in his own inimitable manner an adventure of this kind which was detected and exposed at Alexandria. See L'Histoire des Oracles, dissert. 2. chap. vii. Crebillon, too, in one of his most amusing little stories, has made the Génie Mange-Taupes, of the Isle Jonquille, assert this privilege of spiritual beings in a manner rather formidable to the husbands of the island.

THE CATALOGUE.

"Come, tell me," says Rosa, as kissing and kist,
One day she reclin'd on my breast;
"Come, tell me the number, repeat me the list
"Of the nymphs you have lov'd and carest."—
Oh Rosa! 'twas only my fancy that roved,
My heart at the moment was free;
But I'll tell thee, my girl, how many I've loved,
And the number shall finish with thee.

My tutor was Kitty; in infancy wild
She taught me the way to be blest;
She taught me to love her, I lov'd like a child,
But Kitty could fancy the rest.
This lesson of dear and enrapturing lore
I have never forgot, I allow:
I have had it *by rote* very often before,
But never *by heart* until now.

Pretty Martha was next, and my soul was all flame,
But my head was so full of romance
That I fancied her into some chivalry dame,
And I was her knight of the lance.
But Martha was not of this fanciful school,
And she laugh'd at her poor little knight;
While I thought her a goddess, she thought me a fool,
And I'll swear *she* was most in the right.

My soul was now calm, till, by Cloris's looks,
Again I was tempted to rove;
But Cloris, I found, was so learned in books
That she gave me more logic than love.
So I left this young Sappho, and hasten'd to fly
To those sweeter logicians in bliss,
Who argue the point with a soul-telling eye,
And convince us at once with a kiss.

Oh! Susan was then all the world unto me,
But Susan was piously given;
And the worst of it was, we could never agree
On the road that was shortest to Heaven.
"Oh, Susan!" I've said, in the moments of mirth,
"What's devotion to thee or to me?
"I devoutly believe there's a heaven on earth,
"And believe that that heaven's in *thee!*"

IMITATION OF CATULLUS.

TO HIMSELF.

Miser Catulle, desinas ineptire, &c.

Cease the sighing fool to play;
Cease to trifle life away;
Nor vainly think those joys thine own,
Which all, alas, have falsely flown.
What hours, Catullus, once were thine,
How fairly seem'd thy day to shine,
When lightly thou didst fly to meet
The girl whose smile was then so sweet—
The girl thou lov'dst with fonder pain
Than e'er thy heart can feel again.

Ye met—your souls seem'd all in one,
Like tapers that commingling shone;
Thy heart was warm enough for both,
And hers, in truth, was nothing loath.

Such were the hours that once were thine;
But, ah! those hours no longer shine.
For now the nymph delights no more
In what she lov'd so much before;
And all Catullus now can do,
Is to be proud and frigid too;
Nor follow where the wanton flies,
Nor sue the bliss that she denies.
False maid! he bids farewell to thee,
To love, and all love's misery;
The heyday of his heart is o'er,
Nor will he court one favour more.

Fly, perjur'd girl!—but whither fly?
Who now will praise thy cheek and eye?
Who now will drink the syren tone,
Which tells him thou art all his own?
Oh, none:—and he who lov'd before
Can never, never love thee more.

"Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more!"
St. John, chap. viii.

Oh woman, if through sinful wile
Thy soul hath stray'd from honour's track,
'Tis mercy only can beguile,
By gentle ways, the wand'rer back.

The stain that on thy virtue lies,
Wash'd by those tears, not long will stay;
As clouds that sully morning skies
May all be wept in show'rs away.

Go, go, be innocent,—and live;
The tongues of men may wound thee sore;
But Heav'n in pity can forgive,
And bid thee "go, and sin no more!"

NONSENSE.

Good reader! if you e'er have seen,
When Phœbus hastens to his pillow,
The mermaids, with their tresses green,
Dancing upon the western billow:
If you have seen, at twilight dim,
When the lone spirit's vesper hymn
Floats wild along the winding shore,
If you have seen, through mist of eve,
The fairy train their ringlets weave,
Glancing along the spangled green:—
If you have seen all this, and more,
God bless me, what a deal you've seen!

EPIGRAM,

FROM THE FRENCH.

"I never give a kiss (says Prue),
"To naughty man, for I abhor it."
She will not *give* a kiss, 'tis true;
She'll *take* one though, and thank you for it.

ON A SQUINTING POETESS.

To no *one* Muse does she her glance confine,
But has an eye, at once, to *all the Nine!*

To . . . . . .

Moria pur quando vuol, non è bisogna mutar ni faccia ni voce per esser un Angelo.[1]

Die when you will, you need not wear
At Heaven's Court a form more fair
Than Beauty here on earth has given;
Keep but the lovely looks we see—
The voice we hear—and you will be
An angel *ready-made* for Heaven!

TO ROSA.

A far conserva, e cumulo d'amanti. *Past. Fid.*

And are you then a thing of art,
Seducing all, and loving none;
And have I strove to gain a heart
Which every coxcomb thinks his own?

Tell me at once if this be true,
And I will calm my jealous breast;
Will learn to join the dangling crew,
And share your simpers with the rest.

But if your heart be *not* so free,—
Oh! if another share that heart,
Tell not the hateful tale to me,
But mingle mercy with your art.

I'd rather think you "false as hell,"
Than find you to be all divine,—
Than know that heart could love so well,
Yet know that heart would *not* be mine!

TO PHILLIS.

Phillis, you little rosy rake,
That heart of yours I long to rifle:
Come, give it me, and do not make
So much ado about a *trifle!*

TO A LADY,

ON HER SINGING.

Thy song has taught my heart to feel
Those soothing thoughts of heav'nly love,
Which o'er the sainted spirits steal
When list'ning to the spheres above!

When, tir'd of life and misery,
I wish to sigh my latest breath,
Oh, Emma! I will fly to thee,
And thou shalt sing me into death.

And if along thy lip and cheek
That smile of heav'nly softness play,
Which,—ah! forgive a mind that's weak,—
So oft has stol'n my mind away;

Thou'lt seem an angel of the sky,
That comes to charm me into bliss:
I'll gaze and die—Who would not die,
If death were half so sweet as this?

[1] The words addressed by Lord Herbert of Cherbury to the beautiful nun at Murano. — *See his Life.*

SONG.

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF MRS. ——.

WRITTEN IN IRELAND. 1799.

Of all my happiest hours of joy,
And even I have had my measure,
When hearts were full, and ev'ry eye
Hath kindled with the light of pleasure,
An hour like this I ne'er was given,
So full of friendship's purest blisses;
Young Love himself looks down from heaven,
To smile on such a day as this is.
Then come, my friends, this hour improve,
Let's feel as if we ne'er could sever;
And may the birth of her we love
Be thus with joy remember'd ever!

Oh! banish ev'ry thought to-night,
Which could disturb our soul's communion;
Abandon'd thus to dear delight,
We'll ev'n for once forget the Union!
On that let statesmen try their pow'rs,
And tremble o'er the rights they'd die for;
The union of the soul be ours,
And ev'ry union else we sigh for.
Then come, my friends, &c.

In ev'ry eye around I mark
The feelings of the heart o'erflowing;
From ev'ry soul I catch the spark
Of sympathy, in friendship glowing.
Oh! could such moments ever fly;
Oh! that we ne'er were doom'd to lose 'em;
And all as bright as Charlotte's eye,
And all as pure as Charlotte's bosom.
Then come, my friends, &c.

For me, whate'er my span of years,
Whatever sun may light my roving;
Whether I waste my life in tears,
Or live, as now, for mirth and loving;
This day shall come with aspect kind,
Wherever fate may cast your'rover;
He'll think of those he left behind,
And drink a health to bliss that's over!
Then come, my friends, &c.

SONG.[1]

MARY, I believ'd thee true,
And I was blest in thus believing;
But now I mourn that e'er I knew
A girl so fair and so deceiving.
Fare thee well.

Few have ever lov'd like me,—
Yes, I have lov'd thee too sincerely!
And few have e'er deceiv'd like thee,—
Alas! deceiv'd me too severely.

Fare thee well!—yet think awhile
On one whose bosom bleeds to doubt thee;
Who now would rather trust that smile,
And die with thee than live without thee.

Fare thee well! I'll think of thee,
Thou leav'st me many a bitter token;
For see, distracting woman, see,
My peace is gone, my heart is broken!—
Fare thee well!

[1] These words were written to the pathetic Scotch air "Galla Water."

MORALITY.

A FAMILIAR EPISTLE.

ADDRESSED TO

J. AT—NS—N, ESQ. M. R. I. A.

THOUGH long at school and college dosing,
O'er books of verse and books of prosing,
And copying from their moral pages
Fine recipes for making sages;
Though long with those divines at school,
Who think to make us good by rule;
Who, in methodic forms advancing,
Teaching morality like dancing,
Tell us, for Heaven or money's sake,
What *steps* we are through life to take:
Though thus, my friend, so long employ'd,
With so much midnight oil destroy'd,
I must confess, my searches past,
I've only learn'd *to doubt* at last.
I find the doctors and the sages
Have differ'd in all climes and ages,
And two in fifty scarce agree
On what is pure morality.
'Tis like the rainbow's shifting zone,
And every vision makes its own.

The doctors of the Porch advise,
As modes of being great and wise,
That we should cease to own or know
The luxuries that from feeling flow:—
"Reason alone must claim direction,
"And Apathy's the soul's perfection.

" Like a dull lake the heart must lie;
" Nor passion's gale nor pleasure's sigh,
" Though Heav'n the breeze, the breath, supplied,
" Must curl the wave or swell the tide!"

Such was the rigid Zeno's plan
To form his philosophic man;
Such were the modes *he* taught mankind
To weed the garden of the mind;
They tore from thence some weeds, 'tis true,
But all the flow'rs were ravag'd too!

Now listen to the wily strains,
Which, on Cyrené's sandy plains,
When Pleasure, nymph with loosen'd zone,
Usurp'd the philosophic throne,—
Hear what the courtly sage's [1] tongue
To his surrounding pupils sung:—
" Pleasure's the only noble end
" To which all human pow'rs should tend,
" And Virtue gives her heav'nly lore,
" But to make Pleasure please us more.
" Wisdom and she were both design'd
" To make the senses more refin'd,
" That man might revel, free from cloying,
" Then most a sage when most enjoying!"

Is this morality?—Oh, no!
Ev'n I a wiser path could show.
The flow'r within this vase confin'd,
The pure, the unfading flow'r of mind,
Must not throw all its sweets away
Upon a mortal mould of clay:
No, no,—its richest breath should rise
In virtue's incense to the skies.

But thus it is, all sects we see
Have watchwords of morality:
Some cry out Venus, others Jove;
Here 'tis Religion, there 'tis Love.
But while they thus so widely wander,
While mystics dream, and doctors ponder;
And some, in dialectics firm,
Seek virtue in a middle term;
While thus they strive, in Heaven's defiance,
To chain morality with science;
The plain good man, whose actions teach
More virtue than a sect can preach,
Pursues his course, unsagely blest,
His tutor whisp'ring in his breast;
Nor could he act a purer part,
Though he had Tully all by heart.
And when he drops the tear on woe,
He little knows or cares to know
That Epictetus blam'd that tear,
By Heaven approv'd, to virtue dear!

Oh! when I've seen the morning beam
Floating within the dimpled stream;
While Nature, wak'ning from the night,
Has just put on her robes of light,
Have I, with cold optician's gaze,
Explor'd the *doctrine* of those rays?
No, pedants, I have left to you
Nicely to sep'rate hue from hue.
Go, give that moment up to art,
When Heaven and nature claim the heart;
And, dull to all their best attraction,
Go—measure *angles of refraction.*
While I, in feeling's sweet romance,
Look on each daybeam as a glance
From the great eye of Him above,
Wak'ning his world with looks of love!

[1] *Aristippus.*

THE

TELL-TALE LYRE.

I've heard, there was in ancient days
A Lyre of most melodious spell;
'Twas heav'n to hear its fairy lays,
If half be true that legends tell.

'Twas play'd on by the gentlest sighs,
And to their breath it breath'd again
In such entrancing melodies
As ear had never drunk till then!

Not harmony's serenest touch
So stilly could the notes prolong;
They were not heavenly song so much
As they were dreams of heavenly song!

If sad the heart, whose murm'ring air
Along the chords in languor stole,
The numbers it awaken'd there
Were eloquence from pity's soul.

Or if the sigh, serene and light,
Was but the breath of fancied woes,
The string, that felt its airy flight,
Soon whisper'd it to kind repose.

And when young lovers talk'd alone,
If, mid their bliss that Lyre was near,
It made their accents all its own,
And sent forth notes that Heaven might hear.

There was a nymph, who long had lov'd,
But dar'd not tell the world how well:
The shades, where she at evening rov'd,
Alone could know, alone could tell.

'Twas there, at twilight time, she stole,
When the first star announc'd the night,—
With him who claim'd her inmost soul,
To wander by that soothing light.

It chanc'd that, in the fairy bower
Where blest they woo'd each other's smile,
This Lyre, of strange and magic power,
Hung whisp'ring o'er their heads the while.

And as, with eyes commingling fire,
They listen'd to each other's vow,
The youth full oft would make the Lyre
A pillow for the maiden's brow:

And, while the melting words she breath'd
Were by its echoes wafted round,
Her locks had with the cords so wreath'd,
One knew not which gave forth the sound.

Alas, their hearts but little thought,
While thus they talk'd the hours away,
That every sound the Lyre was taught
Would linger long, and long betray.

So mingled with its tuneful soul
Were all their tender murmurs grown,
That other sighs unanswer'd stole,
Nor words it breath'd but theirs alone.

Unhappy nymph! thy name was sung
To every breeze that wander'd by;
The secrets of thy gentle tongue
Were breath'd in song to earth and sky.

The fatal Lyre, by Envy's hand
Hung high amid the whisp'ring groves,
To every gale by which 'twas fann'd,
Proclaim'd the myst'ry of your loves.

Nor long thus rudely was thy name
To earth's derisive echoes given;
Some pitying spirit downward came,
And took the Lyre and thee to heaven.

There, freed from earth's unholy wrongs,
Both happy in Love's home shall be;
Thou, uttering nought but seraph songs,
And that sweet Lyre still echoing thee!

PEACE AND GLORY.

WRITTEN ON THE APPROACH OF WAR.

WHERE is now the smile, that lighten'd
Every hero's couch of rest?
Where is now the hope, that brighten'd
Honour's eye and Pity's breast?
Have we lost the wreath we braided
For our weary warrior men?
Is the faithless olive faded?
Must the bay be pluck'd again?

Passing hour of sunny weather
Lovely, in your light awhile,
Peace and Glory, wed together,
Wander'd through our blessed isle.
And the eyes of Peace would glisten,
Dewy as a morning sun,
When the timid maid would listen
To the deeds her chief had done.

Is their hour of dalliance over?
Must the maiden's trembling feet
Waft her from her warlike lover
To the desert's still retreat?
Fare you well! with sighs we banish
Nymph so fair and guests so bright;
Yet the smile, with which you vanish,
Leaves behind a soothing light;—

Soothing light, that long shall sparkle
O'er your warrior's sanguin'd way,
Through the field where horrors darkle,
Shedding hope's consoling ray.
Long the smile his heart will cherish,
To its absent idol true;
While around him myriads perish,
Glory still will sigh for you!

SONG.

TAKE back the sigh, thy lips of art
In passion's moment breath'd to me;
Yet, no — it must not, will not part,
'Tis now the life-breath of my heart,
And has become too pure for thee.

Take back the kiss, that faithless sigh
With all the warmth of truth imprest;
Yet, no — the fatal kiss may lie,
Upon *thy* lip its sweets would die,
Or bloom to make a rival blest.

Take back the vows that, night and day,
My heart receiv'd, I thought, from thine;
Yet, no — allow them still to stay,
They might some other heart betray,
As sweetly as they've ruin'd mine.

LOVE AND REASON.

"Quand l'homme commence à raisonner, il cesse de sentir."
J. J. ROUSSEAU.[1]

'TWAS in the summer time so sweet,
When hearts and flowers are both in season,
That — who, of all the world, should meet,
One early dawn, but Love and Reason!

Love told his dream of yesternight,
While Reason talk'd about the weather;
The morn, in sooth, was fair and bright,
And on they took their way together.

The boy in many a gambol flew,
While Reason, like a Juno, stalk'd,
And from her portly figure threw
A lengthen'd shadow, as she walk'd.

No wonder Love, as on they pass'd,
Should find that sunny morning chill,
For still the shadow Reason cast
Fell o'er the boy, and cool'd him still.

In vain he tried his wings to warm,
Or find a pathway not so dim,
For still the maid's gigantic form
Would stalk between the sun and him.

"This must not be," said little Love —
"The sun was made for more than you."
So, turning through a myrtle grove,
He bid the portly nymph adieu.

Now gaily roves the laughing boy
O'er many a mead, by many a stream;
In every breeze inhaling joy,
And drinking bliss in every beam.

From all the gardens, all the bowers,
He cull'd the many sweets they shaded,
And ate the fruits and smell'd the flowers,
Till taste was gone and odour faded.

But now the sun, in pomp of noon,
Look'd blazing o'er the sultry plains;
Alas! the boy grew languid soon,
And fever thrill'd through all his veins.

The dew forsook his baby brow,
No more with healthy bloom he smil'd —
Oh! where was tranquil Reason now,
To cast her shadow o'er the child?

Beneath a green and aged palm,
His foot at length for shelter turning,
He saw the nymph reclining calm,
With brow as cool as his was burning.

"Oh! take me to that bosom cold,"
In murmurs at her feet he said;
And Reason op'd her garment's fold,
And flung it round his fever'd head.

He felt her bosom's icy touch,
And soon it lull'd his pulse to rest;
For, ah! the chill was quite too much,
And Love expir'd on Reason's breast!

NAY, do not weep, my Fanny dear;
While in these arms you lie,
This world hath not a wish, a fear,
That ought to cost that eye a tear,
That heart, one single sigh.

The world! — ah, Fanny, Love must shun
The paths where many rove;
One bosom to recline upon,
One heart to be his only-one,
Are quite enough for Love.

What can we wish, that is not here
Between your arms and mine?
Is there, on earth, a space so dear
As that within the happy sphere
Two loving arms entwine?

For me, there's not a lock of jet
Adown your temples curl'd,
Within whose glossy, tangling net,
My soul doth not, at once, forget
All, all this worthless world.

'Tis in those eyes, so full of love,
My only worlds I see;
Let but *their* orbs in sunshine move,
And earth below and skies above,
May frown or smile for me.

[1] Quoted somewhere in St. Pierre's Etudes de la Nature.

ASPASIA.

'Twas in the fair Aspasia's bower,
That Love and Learning, many an hour,
In dalliance met; and Learning smil'd
With pleasure on the playful child,
Who often stole, to find a nest
Within the folds of Learning's vest.

There, as the list'ning statesman hung
In transport on Aspasia's tongue,
The destinies of Athens took
Their colour from Aspasia's look.
Oh happy time, when laws of state,
When all that rul'd the country's fate,
Its glory, quiet, or alarms,
Was plann'd between two snow-white arms!

Blest times! they could not always last —
And yet, ev'n now, they *are* not past.
Though we have lost the giant mould,
In which their men were cast of old,
Woman, dear woman, still the same,
While beauty breathes through soul or frame,
While man possesses heart or eyes,
Woman's bright empire never dies!

No, Fanny, love, they ne'er shall say,
That beauty's charm hath pass'd away;
Give but the universe a soul
Attun'd to woman's soft control,
And Fanny hath the charm, the skill,
To wield a universe at will.

THE GRECIAN GIRL'S DREAM OF THE BLESSED ISLANDS.[1]

TO HER LOVER.

"— ἠχι τι καλος
Πυθαγορης, ὁσσοι τε χορον στησειξαν ἑρωτος.
Ἀπολλων περι Πλωτινου. *Oracul. Metric. a Joan. Opsop. collecta.*

Was it the moon, or was it morning's ray,
That call'd thee, dearest, from these arms away?
Scarce had'st thou left me, when a dream of night
Came o'er my spirit so distinct and bright,
That, while I yet can vividly recall
Its witching wonders, thou shalt hear them all.
Methought I saw, upon the lunar beam,
Two winged boys, such as thy muse might dream,
Descending from above, at that still hour,
And gliding, with smooth step, into my bower.
Fair as the beauteous spirits that, all day,
In Amatha's warm founts imprison'd stay,[2]
But rise at midnight, from th' enchanted rill,
To cool their plumes upon some moonlight hill.

At once I knew their mission; — 'twas to bear
My spirit upward, through the paths of air,
To that elysian realm, from whence stray beams
So oft, in sleep, had visited my dreams.
Swift at their touch dissolv'd the ties, that clung
All earthly round me, and aloft I sprung;
While, heav'nward guides, the little genii flew
Thro' paths of light, refresh'd by heaven's own dew,
And fann'd by airs still fragrant with the breath
Of cloudless climes and worlds that know not death.

Thou know'st, that, far beyond our nether sky,
And shown but dimly to man's erring eye,
A mighty ocean of blue ether rolls,[3]
Gemm'd with bright islands, where the chosen souls,
Who've pass'd in lore and love their earthly hours,
Repose for ever in unfading bowers.

[1] It was imagined by some of the ancients that there is an ethereal ocean above us, and that the sun and moon are two floating, luminous islands, in which the spirits of the blest reside. Accordingly we find that the word Ὠκεανος was sometimes synonymous with αηρ, and death was not unfrequently called Ὠκεανοιο πορος, or "the passage of the ocean."

[2] Eunapius, in his life of Iamblichus, tells us of two beautiful little spirits or loves, which Iamblichus raised by enchantment from the warm springs at Gadara; "dicens astantibus (says the author of the Dii Fatidici, p. 160.) illos esse loci Genios:" which words, however, are not in Eunapius.

I find from Cellarius, that Amatha, in the neighbourhood of Gadara, was also celebrated for its warm springs, and I have preferred it as a more poetical name than Gadara. Cellarius quotes Hieronymus. "*Est et alia villa in vicinia Gadaræ nomine Amatha, ubi calidæ aquæ erumpunt.*"— *Geograph. Antiq.* lib. iii. cap. 13.

[3] This belief of an ocean in the heavens, or "waters above the firmament," was one of the many physical errors in which the early fathers bewildered themselves. Le P. Baltus, in his "Défense des Saints Pères accusés de Platonisme," taking it for granted that the ancients were more correct in their notions (which by no means appears from what I have already quoted), adduces the obstinacy of the fathers, in this whimsical opinion, as a proof of their repugnance to even truth from the hands of the philosophers. This is a strange way of defending the fathers, and attributes much more than they deserve to the philosophers. For an abstract of this work of Baltus, (the opposer of Fontenelle, Van Dale, &c. in the famous Oracle controversy,) see "Bibliothèque des Auteurs Ecclésiast. du 18ᵉ Siècle," part. i. tom. ii.

That very moon, whose solitary light
So often guides thee to my bower at night,
Is no chill planet, but an isle of love,
Floating in splendour through those seas above,
And peopled with bright forms, aërial grown,
Nor knowing aught of earth but love alone.
Thither, I thought, we wing'd our airy way:—
Mild o'er its valleys stream'd a silvery day,
While, all around, on lily beds of rest,
Reclin'd, the spirits of the immortal Blest.[1]
Oh! there I met those few congenial maids,
Whom love hath warm'd, in philosophic shades;
There still Leontium[2], on her sage's breast,
Found lore and love, was tutor'd and carest;
And there the clasp of Pythia's[3] gentle arms
Repaid the zeal which deified her charms.
The Attic Master[4], in Aspasia's eyes,
Forgot the yoke of less endearing ties,
While fair Theano[5], innocently fair,
Wreath'd playfully her Samian's flowing hair,[6]
Whose soul now fix'd, its transmigrations past,
Found in those arms a resting-place, at last;
And smiling own'd, whate'er his dreamy thought
In mystic numbers long had vainly sought,
The One that's form'd of Two whom love hath bound,
Is the best number gods or men e'er found.

But think, my Theon, with what joy I thrill'd,
When near a fount, which through the valley rill'd
My fancy's eye beheld a form recline,
Of lunar race, but so resembling thine
That, oh! 'twas but fidelity in me,
To fly, to clasp, and worship it for thee.
No aid of words the unbodied soul requires,
To waft a wish or embassy desires;
But by a power, to spirits only given,
A deep, mute impulse, only felt in heaven,
Swifter than meteor shaft through summer skies,
From soul to soul the glanc'd idea flies.

Oh, my beloved, how divinely sweet
Is the pure joy, when kindred spirits meet!
Like him, the river-god[7], whose waters flow,
With love their only light, through caves below,
Wafting in triumph all the flowery braids,
And festal rings, with which Olympic maids
Have deck'd his current, as an offering meet
To lay at Arethusa's shining feet.
Think, when he meets at last his fountain-bride,
What perfect love must thrill the blended tide!
Each lost in each, till, mingling into one,
Their lot the same for shadow or for sun,
A type of true love, to the deep they run.
'Twas thus —
But, Theon, 'tis an endless theme,
And thou grow'st weary of my half-told dream.
Oh would, my love, we were together now,
And I would woo sweet patience to thy brow,
And make thee smile at all the magic tales
Of starlight bowers and planetary vales,

[1] There were various opinions among the ancients with respect to their lunar establishment; some made it an elysium, and others a purgatory; while some supposed it to be a kind of *entrepôt* between heaven and earth, where souls which had left their bodies, and those that were on their way to join them, were deposited in the valley of Hecate, and remained till further orders. Τοις περι σεληνην αεει λεγειν αυτας κατοικειν, και απ' αυτης κατω χωρειν εις την περιγειον γενεσιν. — *Stob.* lib. i. Eclog. Physic.

[2] The pupil and mistress of Epicurus, who called her his "dear little Leontium" (Λεονταριον), as appears by a fragment of one of his letters in Laertius. This Leontium was a woman of talent; "she had the impudence (says Cicero) to write against Theophrastus;" and Cicero, at the same time, gives her a name which is neither polite nor translatable. "Meretricula etiam Leontium contra Theophrastum scribere ausa est." — *De Natur. Deor.* She left a daughter called Danae, who was just as rigid an Epicurean as her mother; something like Wieland's Danae in Agathon.

It would sound much better, I think, if the name were Leontia, as it occurs the first time in Laertius; but M. Ménage will not hear of this reading.

[3] Pythia was a woman whom Aristotle loved, and to whom after her death he paid divine honours, solemnizing her memory by the same sacrifices which the Athenians offered to the Goddess Ceres. For this impious gallantry the philosopher was, of course, censured; but it would be well if certain of our modern Stagyrites showed a little of this superstition about the memory of their mistresses.

[4] Socrates, who used to console himself in the society of Aspasia for those "less endearing ties" which he found at home with Xantippe. For an account of this extraordinary creature, Aspasia, and her school of erudite luxury at Athens, see L'Histoire de l'Académie, &c. tom. xxxi. p. 69. Ségur rather fails on the inspiring subject of Aspasia. — "Les Femmes," tom. i. p. 122.

The Author of the "Voyage du Monde de Descartes" has also placed these philosophers in the moon, and has allotted seigneuries to them, as well as to the astronomers (part ii. p. 143.); but he ought not to have forgotten their wives and mistresses; "curæ non ipsâ in morte relinquunt."

[5] There are some sensible letters extant under the name of this fair Pythagorean. They are addressed to her female friends upon the education of children, the treatment of servants, &c. One, in particular, to Nicostrata, whose husband had given her reasons for jealousy, contains such truly considerate and rational advice, that it ought to be translated for the edification of all married ladies. See Gale's Opuscul. Myth. Phys. p. 741.

[6] Pythagoras was remarkable for fine hair, and Doctor Thiers (in his Histoire des Perruques) seems to take for granted it was all his own; as he has not mentioned him among those ancients who were obliged to have recourse to the "coma apposititia." L'Histoire des Perruques, chapitre i.

[7] The river Alpheus, which flowed by Pisa or Olympia, and into which it was customary to throw offerings of different kinds, during the celebration of the Olympic games. In the pretty romance of Clitophon and Leucippe, the river is supposed to carry these offerings as bridal gifts to the fountain Arethusa. Και επι την Αρεθουσαν ουτω την Αλφειον νυμφοστολει. οταν ουν ἡ των ολυμπιων εορτη, κ. τ. λ. Lib. i.

Which my fond soul, inspir'd by thee and love,
In slumber's loom hath fancifully wove.
But no; no more—soon as to-morrow's ray
O'er soft Illissus shall have died away,
I'll come, and, while love's planet in the west,
Shines o'er our meeting, tell thee all the rest.

TO CLOE.

IMITATED FROM MARTIAL.

I COULD resign that eye of blue
  Howe'er its splendour used to thrill me;
And ev'n that cheek of roseate hue,—
  To lose it, Cloe, scarce would kill me.

That snowy neck I ne'er should miss,
  However much I've rav'd about it;
And sweetly as that lip can kiss,
  I *think* I could exist without it.

In short, so well I've learn'd to fast,
  That, sooth my love, I know not whether
I might not bring myself at last,
  To—do without you altogether.

THE

WREATH AND THE CHAIN.

I BRING thee, love, a golden chain,
  I bring thee too a flowery wreath;
The gold shall never wear a stain,
  The flow'rets long shall sweetly breathe.
Come, tell me which the tie shall be,
To bind thy gentle heart to me.

The chain is form'd of golden threads,
  Bright as Minerva's yellow hair,
When the last beam of evening sheds
  Its calm and sober lustre there.
The Wreath's of brightest myrtle wove,
  With sun-lit drops of bliss among it,
And many a rose-leaf, cull'd by Love,
  To heal his lip when bees have stung it.
Come, tell me which the tie shall be,
To bind thy gentle heart to me.

Yes, yes, I read that ready eye,
  Which answers when the tongue is loath,
Thou lik'st the form of either tie,
  And spread'st thy playful hands for both.
Ah!—if there were not something wrong,
  The world would see them blended oft;
The Chain would make the Wreath so strong!
  The Wreath would make the Chain so soft!
Then might the gold, the flow'rets be
Sweet fetters for my love and me.

But, Fanny, so unblest they twine,
  That (Heaven alone can tell the reason)
When mingled thus they cease to shine,
  Or shine but for a transient season.
Whether the Chain may press too much,
  Or that the Wreath is slightly braided,
Let but the gold the flow'rets touch,
  And all their bloom, their glow is faded!
Oh! better to be always free,
Than thus to bind my love to me.

THE timid girl now hung her head,
  And, as she turn'd an upward glance,
I saw a doubt its twilight spread
  Across her brow's divine expanse.
Just then, the garland's brightest rose
  Gave one of its love-breathing sighs—
Oh! who can ask how Fanny chose,
  That ever look'd in Fanny's eyes?
"The Wreath, my life, the Wreath shall be
"The tie to bind my soul to thee."

TO

. . . . . .

AND hast thou mark'd the pensive shade,
  That many a time obscures my brow,
Midst all the joys, beloved maid,
  Which thou canst give, and only thou?

Oh! 'tis not that I then forget
  The bright looks that before me shine;
For never throbb'd a bosom yet
  Could feel their witchery, like mine.

When bashful on my bosom hid,
  And blushing to have felt so blest,
Thou dost but lift thy languid lid,
  Again to close it on my breast;—

Yes,—these are minutes all thine own,
  Thine own to give, and mine to feel;
Yet ev'n in them, my heart has known
  The sigh to rise, the tear to steal.

For I have thought of former hours,
When he who first thy soul possess'd,
Like me awak'd its witching powers,
Like me was lov'd, like me was blest.

Upon *his* name thy murm'ring tongue
Perhaps hath all as sweetly dwelt;
Upon his words thine ear hath hung,
With transport all as purely felt.

For him — yet why the past recall,
To damp and wither present bliss?
Thou'rt now my own, heart, spirit, all,
And Heaven could grant no more than this!

Forgive me, dearest, oh! forgive;
I would be first, be sole to thee,
Thou shouldst have but begun to live,
The hour that gave thy heart to me.

Thy book of life till then effac'd,
Love should have kept that leaf alone
On which he first so brightly trac'd
That thou wert, soul and all, my own.

TO

. . . . . 'S PICTURE.

Go then, if she, whose shade thou art,
No more will let thee sooth my pain;
Yet, tell her, it has cost this heart
Some pangs, to give thee back again.

Tell her, the smile was not so dear,
With which she made thy semblance mine,
As bitter is the burning tear,
With which I now the gift resign.

Yet go — and could she still restore,
As some exchange for taking thee,
The tranquil look which first I wore,
When her eyes found me calm and free;

Could she give back the careless flow,
The spirit that my heart then knew —
Yet, no, 'tis vain — go, picture, go —
Smile at me once, and then — adieu!

FRAGMENT

OF

A MYTHOLOGICAL HYMN TO LOVE.[1]

Blest infant of eternity!
Before the day-star learn'd to move,
In pomp of fire, along his grand career,
Glancing the beamy shafts of light
From his rich quiver to the farthest sphere,
Thou wert alone, oh Love!
Nestling beneath the wings of ancient Night,
Whose horrors seem'd to smile in shadowing thee.

No form of beauty sooth'd thine eye,
As through the dim expanse it wander'd wide;
No kindred spirit caught thy sigh,
As o'er the watery waste it ling'ring died.

Unfelt the pulse, unknown the power,
That latent in his heart was sleeping, —
Oh Sympathy! that lonely hour
Saw Love himself thy absence weeping.

But look, what glory through the darkness beams!
Celestial airs along the water glide: —
What Spirit art thou, moving o'er the tide
So beautiful? oh, not of earth,
But, in that glowing hour, the birth
Of the young Godhead's own creative dreams.
'Tis she!
Psyche, the firstborn spirit of the air,
To thee, oh Love, she turns,
On thee her eyebeam burns:
Blest hour, before all worlds ordain'd to be!
They meet —
The blooming god — the spirit fair
Meet in communion sweet.
Now, Sympathy, the hour is thine;
All nature feels the thrill divine,
The veil of Chaos is withdrawn,
And their first kiss is great Creation's dawn!

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[1] Love and Psyche are here considered as the active and passive principles of creation, and the universe is supposed to have received its first harmonizing impulse from the nuptial sympathy between these two powers. A marriage is generally the first step in cosmogony. Timæus held Form to be the father, and Matter the mother of the World; Elion and Berouth, I think, are Sanchoniatho's first spiritual lovers, and Manco-capac and his wife introduced creation amongst the Peruvians. In short, Harlequin seems to have studied cosmogonies, when he said "tutto il mondo è fatto come la nostra famiglia."

TO

HIS SERENE HIGHNESS

THE DUKE OF MONTPENSIER,

ON HIS

PORTRAIT OF THE LADY ADELAIDE FORBES.

Donington Park, 1802.

To catch the thought, by painting's spell,
Howe'er remote, howe'er refin'd,
And o'er the kindling canvass tell
The silent story of the mind;

O'er nature's form to glance the eye,
And fix, by mimic light and shade,
Her morning tinges, ere they fly,
Her evening blushes, ere they fade;—

Yes, these are Painting's proudest powers;
The gift, by which her art divine
Above all others proudly towers,—
And these, oh Prince! are richly thine.

And yet, when Friendship sees thee trace,
In almost living truth exprest,
This bright memorial of a face
On which her eye delights to rest;

While o'er the lovely look serene,
The smile of peace, the bloom of youth,
The cheek, that blushes to be seen,
The eye that tells the bosom's truth;

While o'er each line, so brightly true,
Our eyes with ling'ring pleasure rove,
Blessing the touch whose various hue
Thus brings to mind the form we love;

We feel the magic of thy art,
And own it with a zest, a zeal,
A pleasure, nearer to the heart
Than critic taste can *ever* feel.

THE

THE FALL OF HEBE.

A DITHYRAMBIC ODE.[1]

'Twas on a day
When the immortals at their banquet lay;
The bowl
Sparkled with starry dew,
The weeping of those myriad urns of light,
Within whose orbs, the almighty Power,
At nature's dawning hour,
Stor'd the rich fluid of ethereal soul.[2]
Around,
Soft odorous clouds, that upward wing their flight
From eastern isles
(Where they have bath'd them in the orient ray,
And with rich fragrance all their bosoms fill'd),
In circles flew, and, melting as they flew,
A liquid daybreak o'er the board distill'd.

All, all was luxury!
All *must* be luxury, where Lyæus smiles.
His locks divine
Were crown'd
With a bright meteor-braid,
Which, like an ever-springing wreath of vine,
Shot into brilliant leafy shapes,
And o'er his brow in lambent tendrils play'd:

[1] Though I have styled this poem a Dithyrambic Ode, I cannot presume to say that it possesses, in any degree, the characteristics of that species of poetry. The nature of the ancient Dithyrambic is very imperfectly known. According to M. Burette, a licentious irregularity of metre, an extravagant research of thought and expression, and a rude embarrassed construction, are among its most distinguishing features; and in all these respects, I have but too closely, I fear, followed my models. Burette adds, "Ces caractères des dithyrambes se font sentir à ceux qui lisent attentivement les odes de Pindare." — *Mémoires de l'Acad.* vol. x. p. 306. The same opinion may be collected from Schmidt's dissertation upon the subject. I think, however, if the Dithyrambics of Pindar were in our possession, we should find that, however wild and fanciful, they were by no means the tasteless jargon they are represented, and that even their irregularity was what Boileau calls "un beau désordre." Chiabrera, who has been styled the Pindar of Italy, and from whom all its poetry upon the Greek model was called Chiabreresco (as Crescimbeni informs us, lib. i. cap. 12.), has given, amongst his Vendemmie, a Dithyrambic, "all' uso de' Greci;" full of those compound epithets, which, we are told, were a chief characteristic of the style (*συνθετους δε λεξεις ετιθουν.* — *Suid. Διθυραμβοδιδ.*); such as

Briglindorato Pegaso
Nubicalpestator.

But I cannot suppose that Pindar, even amidst all the licence of dithyrambics, would ever have descended to ballad-language like the following:

Bella Filli, e bella Clori,
Non più dar pregio a tue bellezze e taci,
Che se Bacco fa vezzi alle mie labbra
Fo le fiche a' vostri baci.
——————— esser vorrei Coppier,
E se troppo desiro
Deh fossi io Bottiglier.
Rime del CHIABRERA, part ii. p. 352.

[2] This is a Platonic fancy. The philosopher supposes, in his Timæus, that, when the Deity had formed the soul of the world, he proceeded to the composition of other souls, in which process, says Plato, he made use of the same cup, though the ingredients he mingled were not quite so pure as for the former; and having refined the mixture with a little of his own essence, he distributed it among the stars, which served as reservoirs of the fluid. — *Ταυτ' ειπε και παλιν επι τον προτερον κρατηρα εν ω την του παντος ψυχην κερασννυς εμισγε, κ. τ. λ.*

While mid the foliage hung,
Like lucid grapes,
A thousand clustering buds of light,
Cull'd from the gardens of the galaxy.

Upon his bosom Cytherea's head
Lay lovely, as when first the Syrens sung
Her beauty's dawn,
And all the curtains of the deep, undrawn,
Reveal'd her sleeping in its azure bed.
The captive deity
Hung lingering on her eyes and lip,
With looks of ecstasy.
Now, on his arm,
In blushes she repos'd,
And, while he gaz'd on each bright charm,
To shade his burning eyes her hand in dalliance stole.

And now she rais'd her rosy mouth to sip
The nectar'd wave
Lyæus gave,
And from her eyelids, half-way clos'd,
Sent forth a melting gleam,
Which fell, like sun-dew, in the bowl:
While her bright hair, in mazy flow
Of gold descending
Adown her cheek's luxurious glow,
Hung o'er the goblet's side,
And was reflected in its crystal tide,
Like a bright crocus flower,
Whose sunny leaves, at evening hour
With roses of Cyrene blending,[1]
Hang o'er the mirror of some silvery stream.

The Olympian cup
Shone in the hands
Of dimpled Hebe, as she wing'd her feet
Up
The empyreal mount,
To drain the soul-drops at their stellar fount;[2]
And still
As the resplendent rill
Gush'd forth into the cup with mantling heat,
Her watchful care
Was still to cool its liquid fire
With snow-white sprinklings of that feathery air
The children of the Pole respire,
In those enchanted lands,[3]
Where life is all a spring, and north winds never blow.

But oh!
Bright Hebe, what a tear,
And what a blush were thine,
When, as the breath of every Grace
Wafted thy feet along the studded sphere,
With a bright cup for Jove himself to drink,
Some star, that shone beneath thy tread,
Raising its amorous head
To kiss those matchless feet,
Check'd thy career too fleet;
And all heaven's host of eyes
Entranc'd, but fearful all,
Saw thee, sweet Hebe, prostrate fall
Upon the bright floor of the azure skies;[4]
Where, mid its stars, thy beauty lay,
As blossom, shaken from the spray
Of a spring thorn,
Lies mid the liquid sparkles of the morn.
Or, as in temples of the Paphian shade,
The worshippers of Beauty's queen behold
An image of their rosy idol, laid
Upon a diamond shrine.

The wanton wind,
Which had pursu'd the flying fair,
And sported mid the tresses unconfin'd
Of her bright hair,
Now, as she fell,—oh wanton breeze!
Ruffled the robe, whose graceful flow
Hung o'er those limbs of unsunn'd snow,
Purely as the Eleusinian veil
Hangs o'er the Mysteries![5]

[1] We learn from Theophrastus, that the roses of Cyrene were particularly fragant. — Ευοσμοτατα τα δε τα εν Κυρηνη ῥοδα.

[2] Heraclitus (Physicus) held the soul to be a spark of the stellar essence — "Scintilla stellaris essentiæ."— MACROBIUS, in *Somn. Scip.* lib. i. cap. 14.

[3] The country of the Hyperboreans. These people were supposed to be placed so far north that the north wind could not affect them; they lived longer than any other mortals; passed their whole time in music and dancing, &c. &c. But the most extravagant fiction related of them is that to which the two lines preceding allude. It was imagined that, instead of our vulgar atmosphere, the Hyperboreans breathed nothing but feathers! According to Herodotus and Pliny, this idea was suggested by the quantity of snow which was observed to fall in those regions; thus the former: Τα ὑν πτερα υπαρχοντας την χιονα τους Σκυθας τε και τους περιοικους δοκεω λεγειν. — HERODOT. lib. iv. cap. 31. Ovid tells the fable otherwise: see Metamorph. lib. xv.

Mr. O'Halloran, and some other Irish antiquarians, have been at great expense of learning to prove that the strange country, where they took snow for feathers, was Ireland, and that the famous Abaris was an Irish Druid. Mr. Rowland, however, will have it that Abaris was a Welshman, and that his name is only a corruption of Ap Rees!

[4] It is Servius, I believe, who mentions this unlucky trip which Hebe made in her occupation of cup-bearer; and Hoffman tells it after him: "Cum Hebe pocula Jovi administrans, perque lubricum minus cauté incedens, cecidisset," &c.

[5] The arcane symbols of this ceremony were deposited in the cista, where they lay religiously concealed from the eyes of the profane. They were generally carried in the procession by an ass; and hence the proverb, which one may so often

The brow of Juno flush'd—
Love bless'd the breeze!
The Muses blush'd;
And every cheek was hid behind a lyre,
While every eye look'd laughing through the strings.

But the bright cup? the nectar'd draught
Which Jove himself was to have quaff'd?
Alas, alas, upturn'd it lay
By the fall'n Hebe's side;
While, in slow lingering drops, th' ethereal tide,
As conscious of its own rich essence, ebb'd away.

Who was the Spirit that remember'd Man,
In that blest hour,
And, with a wing of love,
Brush'd off the goblet's scatter'd tears,
As, trembling, near the edge of heaven they ran,
And sent them floating to our orb below?[1]
Essence of immortality!
The shower
Fell glowing through the spheres;
While all around new tints of bliss,
New odours and new light,
Enrich'd its radiant flow.
Now, with a liquid kiss,
It stole along the thrilling wire
Of Heaven's luminous Lyre,[2]
Stealing the soul of music in its flight:
And now, amid the breezes bland,
That whisper from the planets as they roll,
The bright libation, softly fann'd
By all their sighs, meandering stole.
They who, from Atlas' height,
Beheld this rosy flame
Descending through the waste of night,
Thought 'twas some planet, whose empyreal frame
Had kindled, as it rapidly revolv'd
Around its fervid axle, and dissolv'd
Into a flood so bright!

The youthful Day,
Within his twilight bower,
Lay sweetly sleeping
On the flush'd bosom of a lotos-flower;[3]
When round him, in profusion weeping,
Dropp'd the celestial shower,
Steeping
The rosy clouds, that curl'd
About his infant head,
Like myrrh upon the locks of Cupid shed.
But, when the waking boy
Wav'd his exhaling tresses through the sky,
O morn of joy!—
The tide divine,
All glorious with the vermil dye
It drank beneath his orient eye,
Distill'd, in dews, upon the world,
And every drop was wine, was heavenly WINE!
Blest be the sod, and blest the flower
On which descended first that shower,
All fresh from Jove's nectareous springs;—
Oh far less sweet the flower, the sod,
O'er which the Spirit of the Rainbow flings
The magic mantle of her solar God![4]

RINGS AND SEALS.

Ὥσπερ σφραγιδες τα φιλημματα.
ACHILLES TATIUS, lib. ii.

"Go!" said the angry, weeping maid,
"The charm is broken!—once betray'd,
"Never can this wrong'd heart rely
"On word or look, on oath or sigh.
"Take back the gifts, so fondly given,
"With promis'd faith and vows to heaven;
"That little ring which, night and morn,
"With wedded truth my hand hath worn;

apply in the world, "asinus portat mysteria." See the Divine Legation, book ii. sect. 4.

[1] In the Geoponica, lib. ii. cap. 17., there is a fable somewhat like this descent of the nectar to earth. Εν ουρανῳ των θεων ευωχουμενων, και του νεκταρος πολλου παρακειμενου, ανασκιρτησαι χορειᾳ τον Ερωτα και συσσεισαι τῳ πτερῳ του κρατηρος την βασιν, και περιτρεψαι μεν αυτον· το δε νεκταρ εις την γην εκχυθεν, κ. τ. λ. Vid. Autor. de Re Rust. edit. Cantab. 1704.

[2] The constellation Lyra. The astrologers attribute great virtues to this sign in ascendenti, which are enumerated by Pontano, in his Urania:

—— Ecce novem cum pectine chordas
Emodulans, mulcetque novo vaga sidera cantu,
Quo captæ nascentum animæ concordia ducunt
Pectora, &c.

[3] The Egyptians represented the dawn of day by a young boy seated upon a lotos. Ειτε Αιγυπτους ἑωρακως αρχην ανατολης παιδιον νεογνον γραφοντας επι λωτῳ καθεζομενον.—*Plutarch.* περι του μη χραν εμμετρ. See also his Treatise de Isid. et Osir. "Observing that the lotos showed its head above water at sunrise, and sank again at his setting, they conceived the idea of consecrating this flower to Osiris, or the sun.

This symbol of a youth sitting upon a lotos is very frequent on the Abraxases, or Basilidian stones. See Montfaucon, tom. ii. planche 158., and the "Supplement," &c. tom. ii. lib. vii. chap. 5.

[4] The ancients esteemed those flowers and trees the sweetest upon which the rainbow had appeared to rest; and the wood they chiefly burned in sacrifices, was that which the smile of Iris had consecrated. Plutarch. Sympos. lib. iv. cap. 2. where (as Vossius remarks) καιουσι, instead of καλουσι, is undoubtedly the genuine reading. See Vossius, for some curious particularities of the rainbow, De Origin. et Progress. Idololat. lib. iii. cap. 13.

" That seal which oft, in moments blest,
" Thou hast upon my lip imprest,
" And sworn its sacred spring should be
" A fountain seal'd [1] for only thee :
" Take, take them back, the gift and vow,
" All sullied, lost and hateful now ! "

I took the ring — the seal I took,
While, oh, her every tear and look
Were such as angels look and shed,
When man is by the world misled.
Gently I whisper'd, " Fanny, dear !
" Not half thy lover's gifts are here :
" Say, where are all the kisses given,
" From morn to noon, from noon to even, —
" Those signets of true love, worth more
" Than Solomon's own seal of yore, —
" Where are those gifts, so sweet, so many ?
" Come, dearest, — give back all, if any."

While thus I whisper'd, trembling too,
Lest all the nymph had sworn was true,
I saw a smile relenting rise
'Mid the moist azure of her eyes,
Like daylight o'er a sea of blue,
While yet in mid-air hangs the dew.
She let her cheek repose on mine,
She let my arms around her twine ;
One kiss was half allowed, and then —
The ring and seal were hers again.

TO

MISS SUSAN B — CKF — D [2]

ON HER SINGING.

I MORE than once have heard, at night,
A song, like those thy lip hath given,
And it was sung by shapes of light,
Who look'd and breath'd, like thee, of heaven.

But this was all a dream of sleep,
And I have said, when morning shone,
" Why should the night-witch, Fancy, keep
" These wonders for herself alone ? "

I knew not then that fate had lent
Such tones to one of mortal birth ;
I knew not then that Heaven had sent
A voice, a form like thine on earth.

And yet, in all that flowery maze
Through which my path of life has led,
When I have heard the sweetest lays
From lips of rosiest lustre shed ;

When I have felt the warbled word
From Beauty's lip, in sweetness vying
With music's own melodious bird,
When on the rose's bosom lying ;

Though form and song at once combin'd
Their loveliest bloom and softest thrill,
My heart hath sigh'd, my ear hath pin'd
For something lovelier, softer still : —

Oh, I have found it all, at last,
In thee, thou sweetest living lyre,
Through which the soul of song e'er pass'd,
Or feeling breath'd its sacred fire.

All that I e'er, in wildest flight
Of fancy's dreams, could hear or see
Of music's sigh or beauty's light
Is realiz'd, at once, in thee !

IMPROMPTU,

ON LEAVING SOME FRIENDS.

O dulces comitum valete cœtus ! CATULLUS.

No, never shall my soul forget
The friends I found so cordial-hearted ;
Dear shall be the day we met,
And dear shall be the night we parted.

If fond regrets, however sweet,
Must with the lapse of time decay,
Yet still, when thus in mirth you meet,
Fill high to him that's far away !

Long be the light of memory found
Alive within your social glass ;
Let that be still the magic round,
O'er which Oblivion dares not pass.

[1] " There are gardens, supposed to be those of King Solomon, in the neighbourhood of Bethlehem. The friars show a fountain, which, they say, is the 'sealed fountain' to which the holy spouse in the Canticles is compared ; and they pretend a tradition, that Solomon shut up these springs and put his signet upon the door, to keep them for his own drinking." — *Maundrell's Travels*. See also the notes to Mr. Good's Translation of the Song of Solomon.

[2] The present Duchess of Hamilton.

A WARNING.

TO

. . . . . .

Oh fair as heaven and chaste as light!
Did nature mould thee all so bright,
That thou shouldst e'er be brought to weep
O'er languid virtue's fatal sleep,
O'er shame extinguish'd, honour fled,
Peace lost, heart wither'd, feeling dead?

No, no! a star was born with thee,
Which sheds eternal purity.
Thou hast, within those sainted eyes,
So fair a transcript of the skies,
In lines of light such heavenly lore,
That man should read them and adore.
Yet have I known a gentle maid
Whose mind and form were both array'd
In nature's purest light, like thine;—
Who wore that clear, celestial sign,
Which seems to mark the brow that's fair
For destiny's peculiar care:
Whose bosom too, like Dian's own,
Was guarded by a sacred zone,
Where the bright gem of virtue shone;
Whose eyes had, in their light, a charm
Against all wrong, and guile, and harm.
Yet, hapless maid, in one sad hour,
These spells have lost their guardian power;
The gem has been beguil'd away;
Her eyes have lost their chast'ning ray;
The modest pride, the guiltless shame,
The smiles that from reflection came,
All, all have fled, and left her mind
A faded monument behind;
The ruins of a once pure shrine,
No longer fit for guest divine.
Oh! 'twas a sight I wept to see—
Heaven keep the lost one's fate from thee!

TO

. . . . . .

'Tis time, I feel, to leave thee now,
While yet my soul is something free;
While yet those dangerous eyes allow
One minute's thought to stray from thee.

Oh! thou becom'st each moment dearer;
Every chance that brings me nigh thee,
Brings my ruin nearer, nearer,—
I am lost, unless I fly thee.

Nay, if thou dost not scorn and hate me,
Doom me not thus so soon to fall;
Duties, fame, and hopes await me,—
But that eye would blast them all!

For, thou hast heart as false and cold
As ever yet allur'd or sway'd,
And couldst, without a sigh, behold
The ruin which thyself had made.

Yet,— *could* I think that, truly fond,
That eye but once would smile on me,
Ev'n as thou art, how far beyond
Fame, duty, wealth, that smile would be!

Oh! but to win it, night and day,
Inglorious at thy feet reclin'd,
I'd sigh my dreams of fame away,
The world for thee forgot, resign'd.

But no, 'tis o'er, and—thus we part,
Never to meet again,—no, never.
False woman, what a mind and heart
Thy treach'ry has undone for ever!

WOMAN.

Away, away—you're all the same,
A smiling, flutt'ring, jilting throng;
And, wise too late, I burn with shame,
To think I've been your slave so long.

Slow to be won, and quick to rove,
From folly kind, from cunning loath,
Too cold for bliss, too weak for love,
Yet feigning all that's best in both;

Still panting o'er a crowd to reign,—
More joy it gives to woman's breast
To make ten frigid coxcombs vain,
Than one true, manly lover blest.

Away, away—your smile's a curse—
Oh! blot me from the race of men,
Kind pitying Heaven, by death or worse,
If e'er I love such things again.

TO

. . . . . .

Νοσει τα φιλτατα. EURIPIDES.

COME, take thy harp — 'tis vain to muse
Upon the gathering ills we see;
Oh! take thy harp and let me lose
All thoughts of ill in hearing thee.

Sing to me, love! — though death were near,
Thy song could make my soul forget —
Nay, nay, in pity, dry that tear,
All may be well, be happy yet.

Let me but see that snowy arm
Once more upon the dear harp lie,
And I will cease to dream of harm,
Will smile at fate, while thou art nigh.

Give me that strain of mournful touch,
We us'd to love long, long ago,
Before our hearts had known as much
As now, alas! they bleed to know.

Sweet notes! they tell of former peace,
Of all that look'd so smiling then,
Now vanish'd, lost — oh pray thee, cease,
I cannot bear those sounds again.

Art *thou*, too, wretched? yes, thou art;
I see thy tears flow fast with mine —
Come, come to this devoted heart,
'Tis breaking, but it still is thine!

A

VISION OF PHILOSOPHY.

'Twas on the Red Sea coast, at morn, we met
The venerable man [1]; a healthy bloom
Mingled its softness with the vigorous thought
That tower'd upon his brow; and, when he spoke,
'Twas language sweeten'd into song — such holy sounds
As oft, they say, the wise and virtuous hear,
Prelusive to the harmony of heaven,
When death is nigh [2]; and still, as he unclos'd
His sacred lips, an odour, all as bland
As ocean-breezes gather from the flowers
That blossom in elysium [3], breath'd around.
With silent awe we listen'd, while he told
Of the dark veil which many an age had hung
O'er Nature's form, till, long explored by man,
The mystic shroud grew thin and luminous,
And glimpses of that heavenly form shone thro':—
Of magic wonders, that were known and taught
By him (or Cham or Zoroaster nam'd)
Who mus'd amid the mighty cataclysm,
O'er his rude tablets of primeval lore; [4]
And gath'ring round him, in the sacred ar,
The mighty secrets of that former globe,
Let not the living star of science [5] sink
Beneath the waters, which ingulph'd a world! —
Of visions, by Calliope reveal'd
To him [6], who trac'd upon his typic lyre
The diapason of man's mingled frame,
And the grand Doric heptachord of heaven.
With all of pure, of wondrous and arcane,
Which the grave sons of Mochus, many a night,

[1] In Plutarch's Essay on the Decline of the Oracles, Cleombrotus, one of the interlocutors, describes an extraordinary man whom he had met with, after long research, upon the banks of the Red Sea. Once in every year this supernatural personage appeared to mortals, and conversed with them; the rest of his time he passed among the Genii and the Nymphs. Περι την ερυθραν θαλασσαν εὑρον, ανθρωποις ανα παν ετος ἁπαξ εντυγχανοντα, ταλλα δε συν ταις νυμφαις, νομασι και δαιμοσι, ὡς εφασκε. He spoke in a tone not far removed from singing, and whenever he opened his lips, a fragrance filled the place: φθεγγομενου δε τον τοπον ευωδια κατειχε, του στοματος ἡδιστον αποπνεοντος. From him Cleombrotus learned the doctrine of a plurality of worlds.

[2] The celebrated Janus Dousa, a little before his death, imagined that he heard a strain of music in the air. See the poem of Heinsius, "In harmoniam quam paulo ante obitum audire sibi visus est Dousa." Page 501.

[3] —— ενθα μακαρων
νασον ωκεανιδες
αυραι περιπνεουσιν· αν-
θεμα δε χρυσου φλεγει. PINDAR. *Olymp.* ii.

[4] Cham, the son of Noah, is supposed to have taken with him into the ark the principal doctrines of magical, or rather of natural, science, which he had inscribed upon some very durable substances, in order that they might resist the ravages of the deluge, and transmit the secrets of antediluvian knowledge to his posterity. See the extracts made by Bayle, in his article, Cham. The identity of Cham and Zoroaster depends upon the authority of Berosus (or rather the impostor Annius), and a few more such respectable testimonies. See Naudé's Apologie pour les Grands Hommes, &c. chap. viii., where he takes more trouble than is necessary in refuting this gratuitous supposition.

[5] Chamum à posteris hujus artis admiratoribus Zoroastrum, seu vivum astrum, propterea fuisse dictum et pro Deo habitum. — *Bochart. Geograph. Sacr.* lib. iv. cap. 1.

[6] Orpheus. — Paulinus, in his Hebdomades, cap. 2. lib. iii. has endeavoured to show, after the Platonists, that man is a diapason, or octave, made up of a diatesseron, which is his soul, and a diapente, which is his body. Those frequent allusions to music, by which the ancient philosophers illustrated their sublime theories, must have tended very much to elevate the character of the art, and to enrich it with associations of the grandest and most interesting nature. See a preceding note, for their ideas upon the harmony of the spheres. Heraclitus compared the mixture of good and evil in this world to the blended varieties of harmony in a musical instrument (Plutarch. de Animæ Procreat.); and Euryphamus, the Pythagorean, in a fragment preserved by Stobæus, describes human life, in its perfection, as a sweet and well tuned lyre. Some of the ancients were so fanciful as to suppose that the

Told to the young and bright-hair'd visitant
Of Carmel's sacred mount.[1]—Then, in a flow
Of calmer converse, he beguil'd us on

operations of the memory were regulated by a kind of musical cadence, and that ideas occurred to it "per arsin et thesin," while others converted the whole man into a mere harmonized machine, whose motion depended upon a certain tension of the body, analogous to that of the strings in an instrument. Cicero indeed ridicules Aristoxenus for this fancy, and says, "Let him teach singing, and leave philosophy to Aristotle;" but Aristotle himself, though decidedly opposed to the harmonic speculations of the Pythagoreans and Platonists, could sometimes condescend to enliven his doctrines by reference to the beauties of musical science; as, in the treatise Περι κοσμου attributed to him, Καθαπερ δε εν χορω, κορυφαιου καταιξαντος, κ. τ. λ.

The Abbé Batteux, in his enquiry into the doctrine of the Stoics, attributes to those philosophers the same mode of illustration. "L'âme étoit cause active ποιειν αιτιος; le corps cause passive ηδε του πασχειν:—l'une agissant dans l'autre; et y prenant, par son action même, un caractère, des formes, des modifications, qu'elle n'avoit pas par elle-même; à peu près comme l'air, qui, chassé dans un instrument de musique, fait connoître, par les différens sons qu'il produit, les différentes modifications qu'il y reçoit." See a fine simile founded upon this notion in Cardinal Polignac's poem, lib. 5. v. 734.

[1] Pythagoras is represented in Iamblichus as descending with great solemnity from Mount Carmel, for which reason the Carmelites have claimed him as one of their fraternity. This Mochus or Moschus, with the descendants of whom Pythagoras conversed in Phœnicia, and from whom he derived the doctrines of atomic philosophy, is supposed by some to be the same with Moses. Huett has adopted this idea, Démonstration Evangélique, Prop. iv. chap. 2. § 7.; and Le Clerc, amongst others, has refuted it. See Biblioth. Choisie, tom. i. p. 75. It is certain, however, that the doctrine of atoms was known and promulgated long before Epicurus. "With the fountains of Democritus," says Cicero, "the gardens of Epicurus were watered;" and the learned author of the Intellectual System has shown, that all the early philosophers, till the time of Plato, were atomists. We find Epicurus, however, boasting that his tenets were new and unborrowed, and perhaps few among the ancients had any stronger claim to originality. In truth, if we examine their schools of philosophy, notwithstanding the peculiarities which seem to distinguish them from each other, we may generally observe that the difference is but verbal and trifling; and that, among those various and learned heresies, there is scarcely one to be selected, whose opinions are its own, original and exclusive. The doctrine of the world's eternity may be traced through all the sects. The continual metempsychosis of Pythagoras, the grand periodic year of the Stoics, (at the conclusion of which the universe is supposed to return to its original order, and commence a new revolution,) the successive dissolution and combination of atoms maintained by the Epicureans—all these tenets are but different intimations of the same general belief in the eternity of the world. As explained by St. Austin, the periodic year of the Stoics disagrees only so far with the idea of the Pythagoreans, that instead of an endless transmission of the soul through a variety of bodies, it restores the same body and soul to repeat their former round of existence, so that the "identical Plato, who lectured in the Academy of Athens, shall again and again, at certain intervals, during the lapse of eternity, appear in the same Academy and resume the same functions:"——sic eadem tempora temporaliumque rerum volumina repeti, ut v. g. sicut in isto sæculo Plato philosophus in urbe Atheniensi, in eâ scholâ quæ Academia dicta est, discipulos docuit, ita per innumerabilia retro sæcula, multum plexis quidem intervallis, sed certis, et idem Plato, et eadem civitas, eademque schola, iidemque discipuli repetiti et per innumerabilia deinde sæcula

Through many a maze of Garden and of Porch,
Through many a system, where the scatter'd light
Of heavenly truth lay, like a broken beam

repetendi sint.—*De Civitat. Dei*, lib. xii. cap. 13. Vanini, in his dialogues, has given us a similar explication of the periodic revolutions of the world. "Eâ de causâ, qui nunc sunt in usu ritus, centies millies fuerunt, totiesque renascentur quoties ceciderunt." 52.

The paradoxical notions of the Stoics upon the beauty, the riches, the dominion of their imaginary sage, are among the most distinguishing characteristics of their school, and, according to their advocate Lipsius, were peculiar to that sect. "Priora illa (decreta) quæ passim in philosophantium scholis ferè obtinent, ista quæ peculiaria huic sectæ et habent contradictionem: i. e. paradoxa."—*Manuduct. ad Stoic. Philos.* lib. iii. dissertat. 2. But it is evident (as the Abbé Garnier has remarked, Mémoires de l'Acad. tom. xxxv.) that even these absurdities of the Stoics are borrowed, and that Plato is the source of all their extravagant paradoxes. We find their dogma, "dives qui sapiens," (which Clement of Alexandria has transferred from the Philosopher to the Christian, Pædagog. lib. iii. cap. 6.) expressed in the prayer of Socrates at the end of the Phædrus. Ω φιλε Παν τε και αλλοι οσοι τηδε θεοι, δοιητε μοι καλω γενεσθαι ταυδοθεν· τα ξωθεν δε οσα εχω, τοις ενδον ειναι μοι φιλια· πλουσιον δε νομιζοιμι τον σοφον. And many other instances might be adduced from the Αντιθαρται, the Πολιτικος, &c. to prove that these weeds of paradox were all gathered among the bowers of the Academy. Hence it is that Cicero, in the preface to his Paradoxes, calls them Socratica; and Lipsius, exulting in the patronage of Socrates, says, "Ille totus est noster." This is indeed a coalition, which evinces as much as can be wished the confused similitude of ancient philosophical opinions: the father of scepticism is here enrolled amongst the founders of the Portico; he, whose best knowledge was that of his own ignorance, is called in to authorise the pretensions of the most obstinate dogmatists in all antiquity.

Rutilius, in his Itinerarium, has ridiculed the sabbath of the Jews, as "lassati mollis imago Dei;" but Epicurus gave an eternal holiday to his gods, and, rather than disturb the slumbers of Olympus, denied at once the interference of a Providence. He does not, however, seem to have been singular in this opinion. Theophilus of Antioch, if he deserve any credit, imputes a similar belief to Pythagoras:—φησι (Πυθαγορας) τε των παντων θεους ανθρωπων μηδεν φροντιζειν. And Plutarch, though so hostile to the followers of Epicurus, has unaccountably adopted the very same theological error. Thus, after quoting the opinions of Anaxagoras and Plato upon divinity, he adds, Κοινως ουν αμεμφεταουσιν αμφοτεροι, ότι τον θεον εποιησαν επισκεφομενον των ανθρωπινων.—*De Placit. Philosoph.* lib. i. cap. 7. Plato himself has attributed a degree of indifference to the gods, which is not far removed from the apathy of Epicurus's heaven; as thus, in his Philebus, where Protarchus asks, Ουκουν εικος γε ουτε χαιρειν θεους, ουτε το εναντιον; and Socrates answers, Παυ μεν ουν εικος, ασχημον γουν αυτων εκαστεον γιγνομενον εστιν;—while Aristotle supposes a still more absurd neutrality, and concludes, by no very flattering analogy, that the deity is as incapable of virtue as of vice. Και γαρ ώσπερ ουδεν θηριου εστι κακια, ουδ' αρετη, ούτως ουδε θεου.—*Ethic. Nicomach.* lib. vii. cap. 1. In truth, Aristotle, upon the subject of Providence, was little more correct than Epicurus. He supposed the moon to be the limit of divine interference, excluding of course this sublunary world from its influence. The first definition of the world, in his treatise Περι Κοσμου (if this treatise be really the work of Aristotle), agrees, almost verbum verbo, with that in the letter of Epicurus to Pythocles; and both omit the mention of a deity. In his Ethics, too, he intimates a doubt whether the gods feel any interest in the concerns of mankind.—Ει γαρ τις επιμελεια των ανθρωπινων υπο θεων γινεται. It is true, he adds ώσπερ δοκει, but even this is very sceptical.

From the pure sun, which, though refracted all
Into a thousand hues, is sunshine still,[1]
And bright through every change!—he spoke of Him,
The lone[2], eternal One, who dwells above,
And of the soul's untraceable descent
From that high fount of spirit, through the grades
Of intellectual being, till it mix
With atoms vague, corruptible, and dark;
Nor yet even then, though sunk in earthly dross,
Corrupted all, nor its etherial touch
Quite lost, but tasting of the fountain still.
As some bright river, which has roll'd along
Through meads of flowery light and mines of gold,
When pour'd at length into the dusky deep,
Disdains to take at once its briny taint,
But keeps unchanged awhile the lustrous tinge,
Or balmy freshness, of the scenes it left.[3]

In these erroneous conceptions of Aristotle, we trace the cause of that general neglect which his philosophy experienced among the early Christians. Plato is seldom much more orthodox, but the obscure enthusiasm of his style allowed them to accommodate all his fancies to their own purpose. Such glowing steel was easily moulded, and Platonism became a sword in the hands of the fathers.

The Providence of the Stoics, so vaunted in their school, was a power as contemptibly inefficient as the rest. All was fate in the system of the Portico. The chains of destiny were thrown over Jupiter himself, and their deity was like the Borgia of the epigrammatist, "et Cæsar et nihil." Not even the language of Seneca can reconcile this degradation of divinity. "Ille ipse omnium conditor ac rector scripsit quidem fata, sed sequitur; semper paret, semel jussit."—*Lib. de Providentiâ*, cap. 5.

With respect to the difference between the Stoics, Peripatetics and Academicians, the following words of Cicero prove that he saw but little to distinguish them from each other:—"Peripateticos et Academicos, nominibus differentes, re congruentes; a quibus Stoici ipsi verbis magis quam sententiis dissenserunt."—*Academic.* lib. ii. 5.; and perhaps what Reid has remarked upon one of their points of controversy might be applied as effectually to the reconcilement of all the rest. "The dispute between the Stoics and Peripatetics was probably all for want of definition. The one said they were good under the control of reason, the other that they should be eradicated."—*Essays*, vol. iii. In short, it appears a no less difficult matter to establish the boundaries of opinion between any two of the philosophical sects, than it would be to fix the landmarks of those estates in the moon, which Ricciolus so generously allotted to his brother astronomers. Accordingly we observe some of the greatest men of antiquity passing without scruple from school to school, according to the fancy or convenience of the moment. Cicero, the father of Roman philosophy, is sometimes an Academician, sometimes a Stoic; and, more than once, he acknowledges a conformity with Epicurus; "non sine causa igitur Epicurus ausus est dicere semper in pluribus bonis esse sapientem, quia semper sit in voluptatibus."—*Tusculan. Quæst.* lib. v. Though often pure in his theology, Cicero sometimes smiles at futurity as a fiction; thus, in his Oration for Cluentius, speaking of punishments in the life to come, he says, "Quæ si falsa sunt, id quod omnes intelligunt, quid ei tandem aliud mors eripuit, præter sensum doloris?"—though here we should, perhaps, do him but justice by agreeing with his commentator Sylvius, who remarks upon this passage, "Hæc autem dixit, ut causæ suæ subserviret." The poet Horace roves like a butterfly through the schools, and now wings along the walls of the Porch, now basks among the flowers of the Garden; while Virgil, with a tone of mind strongly philosophical, has yet left us wholly uncertain as to the sect which he espoused. The balance of opinion declares him to have been an Epicurean, but the ancient author of his life asserts that he was an Academician; and we trace through his poetry the tenets of almost all the leading sects. The same kind of eclectic indifference is observable in most of the Roman writers. Thus Propertius, in the fine elegy to Cynthia, on his departure for Athens,

Illic vel studiis animum emendare Platonis,
Incipiam, aut hortis, docte Epicure, tuis.
Lib. iii. Eleg. 21.

Though Broeckhusius here reads, "dux Epicure," which seems to fix the poet under the banners of Epicurus. Even the Stoic Seneca, whose doctrines have been considered so orthodox, that St. Jerome has ranked him amongst the ecclesiastical writers, while Boccaccio doubts (in consideration of his supposed correspondence with St. Paul) whether Dante should have placed him in Limbo with the rest of the Pagans—even the rigid Seneca has bestowed such commendations on Epicurus, that if only those passages of his works were preserved to us, we could not hesitate, I think, in pronouncing him a confirmed Epicurean. With similar inconsisteney, we find Porphyry, in his work upon abstinence, referring to Epicurus as an example of the most strict Pythagorean temperance; and Lancelotti (the author of "Farfalloni degli antici Istorici") has been seduced by this grave reputation of Epicurus into the absurd error of associating him with Chrysippus, as a chief of the Stoic school. There is no doubt, indeed, that however the Epicurean sect might have relaxed from its original purity, the morals of its founder were as correct as those of any among the ancient philosophers; and his doctrines upon pleasure, as explained in the letter to Menœceus, are rational, amiable, and consistent with our nature. A late writer, De Sablons, in his Grands Hommes vengés, expresses strong indignation against the Encyclopédistes for their just and animated praises of Epicurus, and discussing the question, "si ce philosophe étoit vertueux," denies it upon no other authority than the calumnies collected by Plutarch, who himself confesses that, on this particular subject, he consulted only opinion and report, without pausing to investigate their truth.—Αλλως την δοξαν, ου την αληθειαν σκοπουμεν. To the factious zeal of his illiberal rivals, the Stoics, Epicurus chiefly owed these gross misrepresentations of the life and opinions of himself and his associates, which, notwithstanding the learned exertions of Gassendi, have still left an odium on the name of his philosophy; and we ought to examine the ancient accounts of this philosopher with about the same degree of cautious belief which, in reading ecclesiastical history, we yield to the invectives of the fathers against the heretics,—trusting as little to Plutarch upon a dogma of Epicurus, as we would to the vehement St. Cyril upon a tenet of Nestorius. (1801.)

The preceding remarks, I wish the reader to observe, were written at a time, when I thought the studies to which they refer much more important as well as more amusing than, I freely confess, they appear to me at present.

[1] Lactantius asserts that all the truths of Christianity may be found dispersed through the ancient philosophical sects, and that any one who would collect these scattered fragments of orthodoxy might form a code in no respect differing from that of the Christian. "Si extitisset aliquis, qui veritatem sparsam per singulos per sectasque diffusam colligeret in unum, ac redigeret in corpus, is profecto non dissentiret a nobis."—*Inst.* lib. vi. c. 7.

[2] Το μονον και ερημον.

[3] This bold Platonic image I have taken from a passage in

And here the old man ceas'd—a winged train
Of nymphs and genii bore him from our eyes.
The fair illusion fled! and, as I wak'd,
'Twas clear that my rapt soul had roam'd the while,
To that bright realm of dreams, that spirit-world,
Which mortals know by its long track of light
O'er midnight's sky, and call the Galaxy.[1]

TO

MRS. . . . . .

To see thee every day that came,
And find thee still each day the same;
In pleasure's smile, or sorrow's tear
To me still ever kind and dear;—
To meet thee early, leave thee late,
Has been so long my bliss, my fate,
That life, without this cheering ray,
Which came, like sunshine, every day,
And all my pain, my sorrow chas'd,
Is now a lone and loveless waste.

Where are the chords she us'd to touch?
The airs, the songs she lov'd so much?
Those songs are hush'd, those chords are still,
And so, perhaps, will every thrill
Of feeling soon be lull'd to rest,
Which late I wak'd in Anna's breast.
Yet, no—the simple notes I play'd
From memory's tablet soon may fade;
The songs, which Anna lov'd to hear,
May vanish from her heart and ear;
But friendship's voice shall ever find
An echo in that gentle mind,
Nor memory lose nor time impair
The sympathies that tremble there.

TO

LADY HEATHCOTE,

ON AN

OLD RING FOUND AT TUNBRIDGE-WELLS.

"Tunnebridge est à la même distance de Londres, que Fontainebleau l'est de Paris. Cé qu'il y a de beau et de galant dans l'un et dans l'autre sexe s'y rassemble au tems des eaux. La compagnie," &c. &c.

See *Mémoires de Grammont*, Second Part, chap. iii.

Tunbridge Wells.

WHEN Grammont grac'd these happy springs,
And Tunbridge saw, upon her Pantiles,
The merriest wight of all the kings
That ever rul'd these gay, gallant isles;

Like us, by day, they rode, they walk'd,
At eve, they did as we may do,
And Grammont just like Spencer talk'd,
And lovely Stewart smil'd like you.

The only different trait is this,
That woman then, if man beset her,
Was rather given to saying "yes,"
Because,—as yet, she knew no better.

Each night they held a coterie,
Where, every fear to slumber charm'd,
Lovers were all they ought to be,
And husbands not the least alarm'd.

Then call'd they up their school-day pranks,
Nor thought it much their sense beneath
To play at riddles, quips, and cranks,
And lords show'd wit, and ladies teeth.

As—"Why are husbands like the mint?"
Because, forsooth, a husband's duty
Is but to set the name and print
That give a currency to beauty.

"Why is a rose in nettles hid
"Like a young widow, fresh and fair?"
Because 'tis sighing to be rid
Of *weeds*, that "have no business there!"

And thus they miss'd and thus they hit,
And now they struck and now they parried;
And some laid in of full grown wit,
While others of a pun miscarried.

'Twas one of those facetious nights
That Grammont gave this forfeit ring
For breaking grave conundrum-rites,
Or punning ill, or—some such thing:—

From whence it can be fairly trac'd,
Through many a branch and many a bough,
From twig to twig, until it grac'd
The snowy hand that wears it now.

All this I'll prove, and then, to you,
Oh Tunbridge! and your springs *ironical*,
I swear by Heathcote's eye of blue
To dedicate the important chronicle.

Father Bouchet's letter upon the Metempsychosis, inserted in Picart's Cérém. Relig. tom. iv.

[1] According to Pythagoras, the people of Dreams are souls collected together in the Galaxy.—Δημους δε ονειρων, κατα Πυθαγοραν, αι ψυχαι ας συναγεσθαι φησιν εις τον γαλαξιαν.—*Porphyr. de Antro Nymph.*

Long may your ancient inmates give
Their mantles to your modern lodgers,
And Charles's loves in Heathcote live,
And Charles's bards revive in Rogers.

Let no pedantic fools be there;
For ever be those fops abolish'd,
With heads as wooden as thy ware,
And, Heaven knows! not half so polish'd.

But still receive the young, the gay,
The few who know the rare delight
Of reading Grammont every day,
And acting Grammont every night.

THE DEVIL AMONG THE SCHOLARS,

A FRAGMENT.

Τι κακον ὁ γελως;
CHRYSOST. *Homil. in Epist. ad Hebræos.*

* * *

BUT, whither have these gentle ones,
These rosy nymphs and black-eyed nuns,
With all of Cupid's wild romancing,
Led my truant brains a dancing?
Instead of studying tomes scholastic,
Ecclesiastic, or monastic,
Off I fly, careering far
In chase of Pollys, prettier far
Than any of their namesakes are,—
The Polymaths and Polyhistors,
Polyglots and all their sisters.

So have I known a hopeful youth
Sit down in quest of lore and truth,
With tomes sufficient to confound him,
Like Tohu Bohu, heap'd around him,—
Mamurra[1] stuck to Theophrastus,
And Galen tumbling o'er Bombastus.[2]
When lo! while all that's learn'd and wise
Absorbs the boy, he lifts his eyes,
And through the window of his study
Beholds some damsel fair and ruddy,
With eyes, as brightly turn'd upon him as
The angel's[3] were on Hieronymus.
Quick fly the folios, widely scatter'd,
Old Homer's laurel'd brow is batter'd,
And Sappho, headlong sent, flies just in
The reverend eye of St. Augustin.
Raptur'd he quits each dozing sage,
Oh woman, for thy lovelier page:
Sweet book!—unlike the books of art,—
Whose errors are thy fairest part;
In whom the dear errata column
Is the best page in all the volume![4]

But to begin my subject rhyme—
'Twas just about this devilish time,
When scarce there happen'd any frolics
That were not done by Diabolics,
A cold and loveless son of Lucifer,
Who woman scorn'd, nor saw the use of her,
A branch of Dagon's family,
(Which Dagon, whether He or She,
Is a dispute that vastly better is
Referr'd to Scaliger[5] *et cæteris,*)
Finding that, in this cage of fools,
The wisest sots adorn the schools,
Took it at once his head Satanic in,
To grow a great scholastic manikin,—

[1] Mamurra, a dogmatic philosopher, who never doubted about any thing, except who was his father."—"Nullâ de re unquam præterquam de patre dubitavit."—*In Vit.* He was very learned—"Là-dedans, (that is, in his head when it was opened,) le Punique heurte le Persan, l'Hébreu choque l'Arabique, pour ne point parler de la mauvaise intelligence du Latin avec le Grec," &c.—See *L'Histoire de Montmaur*, tom. ii. p. 91.

[2] Bombastus was one of the names of that great scholar and quack Paracelsus.—"Philippus Bombastus latet sub splendido tegmine Aureoli Theophrasti Paracelsi," says Stadelius de circumforaneâ Literatorum vanitate.—He used to fight the devil every night with a broadsword, to the no small terror of his pupil Oporinus, who has recorded the circumstance. (Vide Oporin. Vit. apud Christian. Gryph. Vit. Select. quorundam Eruditissimorum, &c.) Paracelsus had but a poor opinion of Galen:—"My very beard (says he in his Paragrænum) has more learning in it than either Galen or Avicenna."

[3] The angel, who scolded St. Jerom for reading Cicero, as Gratian tells the story in his "Concordantia discordantium Canonum," and says, that for this reason bishops were not allowed to read the Classics: "Episcopus Gentilium libros non legat."—*Distinct.* 37. But Gratian is notorious for lying—besides, angels, as the illustrious pupil of Pantenus assures us, have got no tongues. Ουχ' ὡς ἡμιν τα ωτα, οὑτως εκεινοις ἡ γλωττα· ουδ' αν οργανα τις δοι φωνης αγγελοις.—*Clem. Alexand. Stromat.*

[4] The idea of the Rabbins, respecting the origin of woman, is not a little singular. They think that man was originally formed with a tail, like a monkey, but that the Deity cut off this appendage, and made woman of it. Upon this extraordinary supposition the following reflection is founded:—

If such is the tie between women and men,
The ninny who weds is a pitiful elf,
For he takes to his tail like an idiot again,
And thus makes a deplorable ape of himself.
Yet, if we may judge as the fashions prevail,
Every husband remembers th' original plan,
And, knowing his wife is no more than his tail,
Why he—leaves her behind him as much as he can.

[5] Scaliger. de Emendat. Tempor.—Dagon was thought by others to be a certain sea-monster, who came every day out of the Red Sea to teach the Syrians husbandry.—See Jacques Gaffarel (Curiosités Inouïes, chap. i.), who says he thinks

52596

A doctor, quite as learn'd and fine as
Scotus John or Tom Aquinas [1],
Lully, Hales Irrefragabilis,
Or any doctor of the rabble is.
In languages [2], the Polyglots,
Compar'd to him, were Babel sots;
He chatter'd more than ever Jew did,
Sanhedrim and Priest included;—
Priest and holy Sanhedrim
Were one-and-seventy fools to him.
But chief the learned demon felt a
Zeal so strong for gamma, delta,
That, all for Greek and learning's glory, [3]
He nightly tippled "Græco more,"
And never paid a bill or balance
Except upon the Grecian Kalends:—
From whence your scholars, when they want tick,
Say, to be *Attic's* to be *on* tick,
In logics he was quite Ho Panu; [4]
Knew as much as ever man knew.
He fought the combat syllogistic
With so much skill and art eristic,
That though you were the learn'd Stagirite,
At once upon the hip he had you right.
In music, though he had no ears
Except for that amongst the spheres,
(Which most of all, as he averr'd it,
He dearly loved, 'cause no one heard it,)
Yet aptly he, at sight, could read
Each tuneful diagram in Bede,

And find, by Euclid's corollaria,
The ratios of a jig or aria.
But, as for all your warbling Delias,
Orpheuses and Saint Cecilias,
He own'd he thought them much surpass'd
By that redoubted Hyaloclast [5]
Who still contriv'd by dint of throttle,
Where'er he went to crack a bottle.

Likewise to show his mighty knowledge, he,
On things unknown in physiology,
Wrote many a chapter to divert us,
(Like that great little man Albertus,)
Wherein he show'd the reason why,
When children first are heard to cry,
If boy the baby chance to be,
He cries O A!—if girl, O E!—
Which are, quoth he, exceeding fair hints
Respecting their first sinful parents;
"Oh Eve!" exclaimeth little madam,
While little master cries "Oh Adam!" [6]

But 'twas in Optics and Dioptrics,
Our dæmon play'd his first and top tricks.
He held that sunshine passes quicker
Through wine than any other liquor;
And though he saw no great objection
To steady light and clear reflection,
He thought the aberrating rays,
Which play about a bumper's blaze,

this story of the sea-monster "carries little show of probability with it."

[1] I wish it were known with any degree of certainty whether the Commentary on Boethius attributed to Thomas Aquinas be really the work of this Angelic Doctor. There are some bold assertions hazarded in it: for instance, he says that Plato kept school in a town called Academia, and that Alcibiades was a very beautiful woman whom some of Aristotle's pupils fell in love with:—"Alcibiades mulier fuit pulcherrima, quam videntes quidam discipuli Aristotelis," &c.—See *Freytag Adparat. Litterar.* art. 86. tom. i.

[2] The following compliment was paid to Laurentius Valla, upon his accurate knowledge of the Latin language:—

Nunc postquam manes defunctus Valla petivit,
Non audet Pluto verba Latina loqui.

Since Val arriv'd in Pluto's shade,
His nouns and pronouns all so pat in,
Pluto himself would be afraid
To say his soul's his own, in Latin!

See for these lines the "Auctorum Censio" of Du Verdier (page 29.).

[3] It is much to be regretted that Martin Luther, with all his talents for reforming, should yet be vulgar enough to laugh at Camerarius for writing to him in Greek. "Master Joachim (says he) has sent me some dates and some raisins, and has also written me two letters in Greek. As soon as I am recovered, I shall answer them in Turkish, that he too may have the pleasure of reading what he does not understand." Græca sunt, legi non possunt," is the ignorant speech attributed to Accursius; but very unjustly:—for, far from asserting that Greek could not be read, that worthy juris-consult upon the Law 6. D. de Bonor. Possess. expressly says, "Græcæ literæ *possunt* intelligi et legi." (Vide Nov. Libror. Rarior. Collection. Fascic. IV.)—Scipio Carteromachus seems to have been of opinion that there is no salvation out of the pale of Greek Literature: "Via prima salutis Graiâ pandetur ab urbe:" and the zeal of Laurentius Rhodomannus cannot be sufficiently admired, when he exhorts his countrymen, "per gloriam Christi, per salutem patriæ, per reipublicæ decus et emolumentum," to study the Greek language. Nor must we forget Phavorinus, the excellent Bishop of Nocera, who, careless of all the usual commendations of a Christian, required no further eulogium on his tomb than "Here lieth a Greek Lexicographer."

[4] Ὁ πανυ.—The introduction of this language into English poetry has a good effect, and ought to be more universally adopted. A word or two of Greek in a stanza would serve as ballast to the most "light o'love" verses. Ausonius, among the ancients, may serve as a model:—

Ου γαρ μοι θεμις εστιν in hac regione μανουτι
Αξιον ab nostris επιδευεα esse καμηναις.

Ronsard, the French poet, has enriched his sonnets and odes with many an exquisite morsel from the Lexicon. His "chère Entelechie," in addressing his mistress, can only be equalled by Cowley's "Antiperistasis."

[5] Or Glass-Breaker—Morhofius has given an account of this extraordinary man, in a work, published 1682,—"De vitreo scypho fracto," &c.

[6] Translated almost literally from a passage in Albertus de Secretis, &c.

Were by the doctors look'd, in common, on,
As a more rare and rich phenomenon.
He wisely said that the sensorium
Is for the eyes a great emporium,
To which these noted picture-stealers
Send all they can and meet with dealers.
In many an optical proceeding
The brain, he said, show'd great good-breeding
For instance, when we ogle women
(A trick which Barbara tutor'd him in),
Although the dears are apt to get in a
Strange position on the retina
Yet instantly the modest brain
Doth set them on their legs again![1]

Our doctor thus, with "stuff'd sufficiency"
Of all omnigenous omnisciency,
Began (as who would not begin
That had, like him, so much within?)
To let it out in books of all sorts,
Folios, quartos, large and small sorts;

Poems, so very deep and sensible
That they were quite incomprehensible[2]
Prose, which had been at learning's Fair,
And bought up all the trumpery there,
The tatter'd rags of every vest,
In which the Greeks and Romans drest,
And o'er her figure swoll'n and antic
Scatter'd them all with airs so frantic,
That those, who saw what fits she had,
Declar'd unhappy Prose was mad!
Epics he wrote and scores of rebusses,
All as neat as old Turnebus's;
Eggs and altars, cyclopædias,
Grammars, prayer-books—oh! 'twere tedious,
Did I but tell the half, to follow me:
Not the scribbling bard of Ptolemy,
No—nor the hoary Trismegistus,
(Whose writings all, thank heaven! have miss'd us,)
E'er fill'd with lumber such a wareroom
As this great "porcus literarum!"

* * * *

[1] Alluding to that habitual act of the judgment, by which, notwithstanding the inversion of the image upon the retina, a correct impression of the object is conveyed to the sensorium.

[2] Under this description, I believe "the Devil among the Scholars" may be included. Yet Leibnitz found out the uses of incomprehensibility, when he was appointed secretary to a society of philosophers at Nuremberg, chiefly for his ingenuity in writing a cabalistical letter, not one word of which either they or himself could interpret. See the Eloge Historique de M. de Leibnitz, l'Europe Savante.—People in all ages have loved to be puzzled. We find Cicero thanking Atticus for having sent him a work of Serapion "ex quo (says he) quidem ego (quod inter nos liceat dicere) millesimam partem vix intelligo." Lib. ii. epist. 4. And we know that Avicenna, the learned Arabian, read Aristotle's Metaphysics forty times over for the mere pleasure of being able to inform the world that he could not comprehend one syllable throughout them. (Nicolas Massa in Vit. Avicen.)

POEMS RELATING TO AMERICA.

TO

FRANCIS, EARL OF MOIRA,

GENERAL IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES, MASTER-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE, CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER, ETC.

My Lord,

It is impossible to think of addressing a Dedication to your Lordship without calling to mind the well-known reply of the Spartan to a rhetorician, who proposed to pronounce an eulogium on Hercules. "On Hercules!" said the honest Spartan, "who ever thought of blaming Hercules?" In a similar manner the concurrence of public opinion has left to the panegyrist of your Lordship a very superfluous task. I shall, therefore, be silent on the subject, and merely entreat your indulgence to the very humble tribute of gratitude which I have here the honour to present.

I am, my Lord,
With every feeling of attachment
and respect,
Your Lordship's very devoted Servant,
THOMAS MOORE.

27. *Bury Street, St. James's,*
April 10. 1806.

PREFACE.[1]

The principal poems in the following collection were written during an absence of fourteen months from Europe. Though curiosity was certainly not the motive of my voyage to America, yet it happened that the gratification of curiosity was the only advantage which I derived from it. Finding myself in the country of a new people, whose infancy had promised so much, and whose progress to maturity has been an object of such interesting speculation, I determined to employ the short period of time, which my plan of return to Europe afforded me, in travelling through a few of the States, and acquiring some knowledge of the inhabitants.

The impression which my mind received from the character and manners of these republicans, suggested the Epistles which are written from the city of Washington and Lake Erie.[2] How far I was right, in thus assuming the tone of a satirist against a people whom I viewed but as a stranger and a visiter, is a doubt which my feelings did not allow me time to investigate. All I presume to answer for is the fidelity of the picture which I have given; and though prudence *might* have dictated gentler language, truth, I think, would have justified severer.

I went to America with prepossessions by no means unfavourable, and indeed rather indulged in many of those illusive ideas, with respect to the purity of the government and the primitive happiness of the people, which I had early imbibed in my native country, where, unfortunately, discontent at home enhances every distant temptation, and the western world has long been looked to as a retreat from real or imaginary oppression; as, in short, the elysian Atlantis, where persecuted patriots might find their visions realised, and be welcomed by kindred spirits to liberty and repose. In all these flattering expectations I found myself completely disappointed, and felt inclined to say to America, as Horace says to his mistress, "intentata nites." Brissot, in the preface to his travels, observes, that "freedom in that country is carried to so high a degree as to border upon a state of nature;" and there certainly is a close approximation to savage life, not only in the liberty which they enjoy, but in the violence of party spirit and of private animosity which results from it. This illiberal zeal imbitters all social intercourse; and, though I scarcely could hesitate in selecting the party, whose views appeared to me the more pure and rational, yet I was sorry to ob-

[1] This Preface, as well as the Dedication which precedes it, were prefixed originally to the miscellaneous volume entitled "Odes and Epistles," of which, hitherto, the poems relating to my American tour have formed a part.

[2] Epistles VI. VII. and VIII.

serve that, in asserting their opinions, they both assume an equal share of intolerance; the Democrats, consistently with their principles, exhibiting a vulgarity of rancour, which the Federalists too often are so forgetful of their cause as to imitate.

The rude familiarity of the lower orders, and indeed the unpolished state of society in general, would neither surprise nor disgust if they seemed to flow from that simplicity of character, that honest ignorance of the gloss of refinement which may be looked for in a new and inexperienced people. But, when we find them arrived at maturity in most of the vices, and all the pride of civilisation, while they are still so far removed from its higher and better characteristics, it is impossible not to feel that this youthful decay, this crude anticipation of the natural period of corruption, must repress every sanguine hope of the future energy and greatness of America.

I am conscious that, in venturing these few remarks, I have said just enough to offend, and by no means sufficient to convince; for the limits of a preface prevent me from entering into a justification of my opinions, and I am committed on the subject as effectually as if I had written volumes in their defence. My reader, however, is apprised of the very cursory observation upon which these opinions are founded, and can easily decide for himself upon the degree of attention or confidence which they merit.

With respect to the poems in general, which occupy the following pages, I know not in what manner to apologise to the public for intruding upon their notice such a mass of unconnected trifles, such a world of epicurean atoms as I have here brought in conflict together.[1] To say that I have been tempted by the liberal offers of my bookseller, is an excuse which can hope for but little indulgence from the critic; yet I own that, without this seasonable inducement, these poems very possibly would never have been submitted to the world. The glare of publication is too strong for such imperfect productions: they should be shown but to the eye of friendship, in that dim light of privacy which is as favourable to poetical as to female beauty, and serves as a veil for faults, while it enhances every charm which it displays. Besides, this is not a period for the idle occupations of poetry, and times like the present require talents more active and more useful. Few have now the leisure to read such trifles, and I most sincerely regret that I have had the leisure to write them.

[1] See the foregoing Note, p. 104.

POEMS RELATING TO AMERICA.

TO

LORD VISCOUNT STRANGFORD.

ABOARD THE PHAETON FRIGATE, OFF THE AZORES, BY MOONLIGHT.

Sweet Moon! if, like Crotona's sage,[2]
By any spell my hand could dare
To make thy disk its ample page,
And write my thoughts, my wishes there;
How many a friend, whose careless eye
Now wanders o'er that starry sky,
Should smile, upon thy orb to meet
The recollection, kind and sweet,
The reveries of fond regret,
The promise, never to forget,
And all my heart and soul would send
To many a dear-lov'd, distant friend.

How little, when we parted last,
I thought those pleasant times were past,
For ever past, when brilliant joy
Was all my vacant heart's employ:
When, fresh from mirth to mirth again,
We thought the rapid hours too few;
Our only use for knowledge then
To gather bliss from all we knew.
Delicious days of whim and soul!
When, mingling lore and laugh together,
We lean'd the book on Pleasure's bowl,
And turn'd the leaf with Folly's feather.
Little I thought that all were fled,
That, ere that summer's bloom was shed,
My eye should see the sail unfurl'd
That wafts me to the western world.

And yet, 'twas time;—in youth's sweet days,
To cool that season's glowing rays,
The heart awhile, with wanton wing,
May dip and dive in Pleasure's spring;
But, if it wait for winter's breeze,
The spring will chill, the heart will freeze.
And then, that Hope, that fairy Hope,—
Oh! she awak'd such happy dreams,
And gave my soul such tempting scope
For all its dearest, fondest schemes,

[2] Pythagoras; who was supposed to have a power of writing upon the Moon by the means of a magic mirror.—See Bayle, art. *Pythag.*

That not Verona's child of song,
When flying from the Phrygian shore,
With lighter heart could bound along,
Or pant to be a wand'rer more![1]

Even now delusive hope will steal
Amid the dark regrets I feel,
Soothing, as yonder placid beam
Pursues the murmurers of the deep,
And lights them with consoling gleam,
And smiles them into tranquil sleep.
Oh! such a blessed night as this,
I often think, if friends were near,
How we should feel, and gaze with bliss
Upon the moon-bright scenery here!
The sea is like a silvery lake,
And, o'er its calm the vessel glides
Gently, as if it fear'd to wake
The slumber of the silent tides.
The only envious cloud that lowers
Hath hung its shade on Pico's height,[2]
Where dimly, mid the dusk, he towers,
And scowling at this heav'n of light,
Exults to see the infant storm
Cling darkly round his giant form!

Now, could I range those verdant isles,
Invisible at this soft hour,
And see the looks, the beaming smiles,
That brighten many an orange bower;
And could I lift each pious veil,
And see the blushing cheek it shades,—
Oh! I should have full many a tale,
To tell of young Azorian maids.[3]
Yes, Strangford, at this hour, perhaps,
Some lover (not too idly blest,
Like those, who in their ladies' laps
May cradle every wish to rest,)
Warbles, to touch his dear one's soul,
Those madrigals, of breath divine,
Which Camoens' harp from Rapture stole
And gave, all glowing warm, to thine.[4]
Oh! could the lover learn from thee,
And breathe them with thy graceful tone,
Such sweet, beguiling minstrelsy
Would make the coldest nymph his own.

But, hark!—the boatswain's pipings tell
'Tis time to bid my dream farewell:
Eight bells:—the middle watch is set;
Good night, my Strangford!—ne'er forget
That, far beyond the western sea
Is one, whose heart remembers thee.

STANZAS.

Θυμος δε ποτ' ιμος ——————
—————— με προσφωνει ταδε·
Γινωσκε ταυθρωπεια μη σεβειν αγαν.
ÆSCHYLL. *Fragment.*

A BEAM of tranquillity smil'd in the west,
The storms of the morning pursued us no more;
And the wave, while it welcom'd the moment of rest,
Still heav'd, as remembering ills that were o'er.

Serenely my heart took the hue of the hour,
Its passions were sleeping, were mute as the dead;
And the spirit becalm'd but remember'd their power,
As the billow the force of the gale that was fled.

I thought of those days, when to pleasure alone
My heart ever granted a wish or a sigh;
When the saddest emotion my bosom had known,
Was pity for those who were wiser than I.

I reflected, how soon in the cup of Desire
The pearl of the soul may be melted away;
How quickly, alas, the pure sparkle of fire
We inherit from heav'n, may be quench'd in the clay;

And I pray'd of that Spirit who lighted the flame,
That Pleasure no more might its purity dim;
So that, sullied but little, or brightly the same,
I might give back the boon I had borrow'd from him.

How blest was the thought! it appear'd as if Heaven
Had already an opening to Paradise shown;
As if, passion all chasten'd and error forgiven,
My heart then began to be purely its own.

I look'd to the west, and the beautiful sky,
Which morning had clouded, was clouded no more:
"Oh! thus," I exclaimed, "may a heavenly eye
"Shed light on the soul that was darken'd before."

[1] Alluding to these animated lines in the 44th Carmen of Catullus:—

Jam mens prætrepidans avet vagari,
Jam læti studio pedes vigescunt!

[2] A very high mountain on one of the Azores, from which the island derives its name. It is said by some to be as high as the Peak of Teneriffe.

[3] I believe it is Guthrie who says, that the inhabitants of the Azores are much addicted to gallantry. This is an assertion in which even Guthrie may be credited.

[4] These islands belong to the Portuguese.

TO

THE FLYING FISH.[1]

When I have seen thy snow-white wing
From the blue wave at evening spring,
And show those scales of silvery white,
So gaily to the eye of light,
As if thy frame were form'd to rise,
And live amid the glorious skies;
Oh! it has made me proudly feel,
How like thy wing's impatient zeal
Is the pure soul, that rests not, pent
Within this world's gross element,
But takes the wing that God has given,
And rises into light and heaven!

But, when I see that wing, so bright,
Grow languid with a moment's flight,
Attempt the paths of air in vain,
And sink into the waves again;
Alas! the flattering pride is o'er;
Like thee, awhile, the soul may soar,
But erring man must blush to think,
Like thee, again the soul may sink.

Oh Virtue! when thy clime I seek,
Let not my spirit's flight be weak:
Let me not, like this feeble thing,
With brine still dropping from its wing,
Just sparkle in the solar glow
And plunge again to depths below;
But, when I leave the grosser throng
With whom my soul hath dwelt so long,
Let me, in that aspiring day,
Cast every lingering stain away,
And, panting for thy purer air,
Fly up at once and fix me there.

TO

MISS MOORE.

FROM NORFOLK, IN VIRGINIA, NOVEMBER, 1803.

In days, my Kate, when life was new,
When, lull'd with innocence and you,
I heard, in home's beloved shade,
The din the world at distance made;
When, every night my weary head
Sunk on its own unthorned bed,
And, mild as evening's matron hour,
Looks on the faintly shutting flower,
A mother saw our eyelids close,
And bless'd them into pure repose;
Then, haply if a week, a day,
I linger'd from that home away,
How long the little absence seem'd!
How bright the look of welcome beam'd,
As mute you heard, with eager smile,
My tales of all that pass'd the while!

Yet now, my Kate, a gloomy sea
Rolls wide between that home and me;
The moon may thrice be born and die,
Ere ev'n that seal can reach mine eye,
Which used so oft, so quick to come,
Still breathing all the breath of home,—
As if, still fresh, the cordial air
From lips belov'd were lingering there.
But now, alas,—far different fate!
It comes o'er ocean, slow and late,
When the dear hand that fill'd its fold
With words of sweetness may lie cold.

But hence that gloomy thought! at last,
Beloved Kate, the waves are past:
I tread on earth securely now,
And the green cedar's living bough
Breathes more refreshment to my eyes
Than could a Claude's divinest dyes.
At length I touch the happy sphere
To liberty and virtue dear,
Where man looks up, and, proud to claim
His rank within the social frame,
Sees a grand system round him roll,
Himself its centre, sun, and soul!
Far from the shocks of Europe—far
From every wild, elliptic star
That, shooting with a devious fire,
Kindled by heaven's avenging ire,
So oft hath into chaos hurl'd
The systems of the ancient world.

The warrior here, in arms no more,
Thinks of the toil, the conflict o'er,
And glorying in the freedom won
For hearth and shrine, for sire and son,
Smiles on the dusky webs, that hide
His sleeping sword's remember'd pride.
While Peace, with sunny cheeks of toil,
Walks o'er the free, unlorded soil,
Effacing with her splendid share
The drops that war had sprinkled there.

[1] It is the opinion of St. Austin upon Genesis, and I believe of nearly all the Fathers, that birds, like fish, were originally produced from the waters; in defence of which idea they have collected every fanciful circumstance which can tend to prove a kindred similitude between them; *συγγενειαν τοις πετομενοις προς τα νηκτα*. With this thought in our minds, when we first see the Flying-Fish, we could almost fancy, that we are present at the moment of creation, and witness the birth of the first bird from the waves.

Thrice happy land! where he who flies
From the dark ills of other skies,
From scorn, or want's unnerving woes,
May shelter him in proud repose:
Hope sings along the yellow sand
His welcome to a patriot land;
The mighty wood, with pomp, receives
The stranger in its world of leaves,
Which soon their barren glory yield
To the warm shed and cultur'd field;
And he, who came, of all bereft,
To whom malignant fate had left
Nor home nor friends nor country dear,
Finds home and friends and country here.

Such is the picture, warmly such,
That Fancy long, with florid touch,
Had painted to my sanguine eye
Of man's new world of liberty.
Oh! ask me not, if Truth have yet
Her seal on Fancy's promise set;
If ev'n a glimpse my eyes behold
Of that imagin'd age of gold;—
Alas, not yet one gleaming trace![1]
Never did youth, who lov'd a face
As sketch'd by some fond pencil's skill,
And made by fancy lovelier still,
Shrink back with more of sad surprise,
When the live model met his eyes,
Than I have felt, in sorrow felt,
To find a dream on which I've dwelt
From boyhood's hour, thus fade and flee
At touch of stern reality!

But, courage, yet, my wavering heart!
Blame not the temple's meanest part,[2]
Till thou hast trac'd the fabric o'er:—
As yet, we have beheld no more
Than just the porch to Freedom's fane;
And, though a sable spot may stain
The vestibule, 'tis wrong, 'tis sin
To doubt the godhead reigns within!
So here I pause—and now, my Kate,
To you, and those dear friends, whose fate
Touches more near this home-sick soul
Than all the Powers from pole to pole,
One word at parting—in the tone
Most sweet to you, and most my own.

The simple strain I send you here,[3]
Wild though it be, would charm your ear,
Did you but know the trance of thought
In which my mind its numbers caught.
'Twas one of those half-waking dreams,
That haunt me oft, when music seems
To bear my soul in sound along,
And turn its feelings all to song.
I thought of home, the according lays
Came full of dreams of other days;
Freshly in each succeeding note
I found some young remembrance float,
Till following, as a clue, that strain,
I wander'd back to home again.

Oh! love the song, and let it oft
Live on your lip, in accents soft.
Say that it tells you, simply well,
All I have bid its wild notes tell,—
Of Memory's dream, of thoughts that yet
Glow with the light of joy that's set,
And all the fond heart keeps in store
Of friends and scenes beheld no more.
And now, adieu!—this artless air,
With a few rhymes, in transcript fair,
Are all the gifts I yet can boast
To send you from Columbia's coast;
But when the sun, with warmer smile,
Shall light me to my destin'd isle,[4]
You shall have many a cowslip-bell,
Where Ariel slept, and many a shell,
In which that gentle spirit drew
From honey flowers the morning dew.

A BALLAD.

THE LAKE OF THE DISMAL SWAMP.

WRITTEN AT NORFOLK, IN VIRGINIA.

"They tell of a young man, who lost his mind upon the death of a girl he loved, and who, suddenly disappearing from his friends, was never afterwards heard of. As he had frequently said, in his ravings, that the girl was not dead, but gone to the Dismal Swamp, it is supposed he had wandered into that dreary wilderness, and had died of hunger, or been lost in some of its dreadful morasses."—*Anon.*

"La Poésie a ses monstres comme la nature."—D'ALEMBERT.

"THEY made her a grave, too cold and damp
"For a soul so warm and true;

[1] Such romantic works as "The American Farmer's Letters," and the account of Kentucky by Imlay, would seduce us into a belief, that innocence, peace, and freedom had deserted the rest of the world for Martha's Vineyard and the banks of the Ohio. The French travellers, too, almost all from revolutionary motives, have contributed their share to the diffusion of this flattering misconception. A visit to the country is, however, quite sufficient to correct even the most enthusiastic prepossession.

[2] Norfolk, it must be owned, presents an unfavourable specimen of America. The characteristics of Virginia in general are not such as can delight either the politician or the moralist, and at Norfolk they are exhibited in their least attractive form. At the time when we arrived the yellow fever had not yet disappeared, and every odour that assailed us in the streets very strongly accounted for its visitation.

[3] A trifling attempt at musical composition accompanied this Epistle.

[4] Bermuda.

" And she's gone to the Lake of the Dismal Swamp,[1]
" Where, all night long, by a fire-fly lamp,
" She paddles her white canoe.

" And her fire-fly lamp I soon shall see,
" And her paddle I soon shall hear;
" Long and loving our life shall be,
" And I'll hide the maid in a cypress tree,
" When the footstep of death is near."

Away to the Dismal Swamp he speeds—
His path was rugged and sore,
Through tangled juniper, beds of reeds,
Through many a fen, where the serpent feeds,
And man never trod before.

And, when on the earth he sunk to sleep,
If slumber his eyelids knew,
He lay, where the deadly vine doth weep
Its venomous tear and nightly steep
The flesh with blistering dew!

And near him the she-wolf stirr'd the brake,
And the copper-snake breath'd in his ear,
Till he starting cried, from his dream awake,
" Oh! when shall I see the dusky Lake,
" And the white canoe of my dear?"

He saw the Lake, and a meteor bright
Quick over its surface play'd —
" Welcome," he said, "my dear one's light!"
And the dim shore echoed, for many a night,
The name of the death-cold maid.

Till he hollow'd a boat of the birchen bark,
Which carried him off from shore;
Far, far he follow'd the meteor spark,
The wind was high and the clouds were dark,
And the boat return'd no more.

But oft, from the Indian hunter's camp,
This lover and maid so true
Are seen at the hour of midnight damp
To cross the Lake by a fire-fly lamp,
And paddle their white canoe!

---

[1] The Great Dismal Swamp is ten or twelve miles distant from Norfolk, and the Lake in the middle of it (about seven miles long) is called Drummond's Pond.

[2] Lady Donegall, I had reason to suppose, was at this time still in Switzerland, where the well-known powers of her pencil must have been frequently awakened.

[3] The chapel of William Tell on the Lake of Lucerne.

TO THE

MARCHIONESS DOWAGER OF DONEGALL.

FROM BERMUDA, JANUARY, 1804.

LADY! where'er you roam, whatever land
Woos the bright touches of that artist hand;
Whether you sketch the valley's golden meads,
Where mazy Linth his lingering current leads;[2]
Enamour'd catch the mellow hues that sleep,
At eve, on Meillerie's immortal steep;
Or musing o'er the Lake, at day's decline,
Mark the last shadow on that holy shrine,[3]
Where, many a night, the shade of Tell complains
Of Gallia's triumph and Helvetia's chains;
Oh! lay the pencil for a moment by,
Turn from the canvass that creative eye,
And let its splendour, like the morning ray
Upon a shepherd's harp, illume my lay.

Yet, Lady, no—for song so rude as mine,
Chase not the wonders of your art divine;
Still, radiant eye, upon the canvass dwell;
Still, magic finger, weave your potent spell;
And, while I sing the animated smiles
Of fairy nature in these sun-born isles,
Oh, might the song awake some bright design,
Inspire a touch, or prompt one happy line,
Proud were my soul, to see its humble thought
On painting's mirror so divinely caught;
While wondering Genius, as he lean'd to trace
The faint conception kindling into grace,
Might love my numbers for the spark they threw,
And bless the lay that lent a charm to you.

Say, have you ne'er, in nightly vision, stray'd
To those pure isles of ever-blooming shade,
Which bards of old, with kindly fancy, plac'd
For happy spirits in th' Atlantic waste?[4]
There listening, while, from earth, each breeze that came
Brought echoes of their own undying fame,
In eloquence of eye, and dreams of song,
They charm'd their lapse of nightless hours along:—
Nor yet in song, that mortal ear might suit,
For every spirit was itself a lute,
Where Virtue waken'd, with elysian breeze,
Pure tones of thought and mental harmonies.

[4] M. Gebelin says, in his *Monde Primitif*, "Lorsque Strabon crût que les anciens théologiens et poëtes plaçoient les champs élysées dans les isles de l'Océan Atlantique, il n'entendit rien à leur doctrine." M. Gebelin's supposition, I have no doubt, is the more correct; but that of Strabo is, in the present instance, most to my purpose.

Believe me, Lady, when the zephyrs bland
Floated our bark to this enchanted land,—
These leafy isles upon the ocean thrown,
Like studs of emerald o'er a silver zone,—
Not all the charm, that ethnic fancy gave
To blessed arbours o'er the western wave,
Could wake a dream, more soothing or sublime,
Of bowers ethereal, and the Spirit's clime.

Bright rose the morning, every wave was still,
When the first perfume of a cedar hill
Sweetly awak'd us, and, with smiling charms,
The fairy harbour woo'd us to its arms.[1]
Gently we stole, before the whisp'ring wind,
Through plaintain shades, that round, like awnings, twin'd
And kiss'd on either side the wanton sails,
Breathing our welcome to these vernal vales;
While, far reflected o'er the wave serene,
Each wooded island shed so soft a green
That the enamour'd keel, with whisp'ring play,
Through liquid herbage seem'd to steal its way.

Never did weary bark more gladly glide,
Or rest its anchor in a lovelier tide!
Along the margin, many a shining dome,
White as the palace of a Lapland gnome,
Brighten'd the wave;—in every myrtle grove
Secluded bashful, like a shrine of love,
Some elfin mansion sparkled through the shade;
And, while the foliage interposing play'd,
Lending the scene an ever-changing grace,
Fancy would love, in glimpses vague, to trace
The flowery capital, the shaft, the porch,[2]
And dream of temples, till her kindling torch
Lighted me back to all the glorious days
Of Attic genius; and I seem'd to gaze
On marble, from the rich Pentelic mount,
Gracing the umbrage of some Naiad's fount.

Then thought I, too, of thee, most sweet of all
The spirit race that come at poet's call,
Delicate Ariel! who, in brighter hours,
Liv'd on the perfume of these honied bowers,
In velvet buds, at evening, lov'd to lie,
And win with music every rose's sigh.
Though weak the magic of my humble strain
To charm your spirit from its orb again,
Yet, oh, for her, beneath whose smile I sing,
For her (whose pencil, if your rainbow wing
Were dimm'd or ruffled by a wintry sky,
Could smooth its feather and relume its dye,)
Descend a moment from your starry sphere,
And, if the lime-tree grove that once was dear,
The sunny wave, the bower, the breezy hill,
The sparkling grotto can delight you still,
Oh cull their choicest tints, their softest light,
Weave all these spells into one dream of night,
And, while the lovely artist slumbering lies,
Shed the warm picture o'er her mental eyes;
Take for the task her own creative spells,
And brightly show what song but faintly tells.

TO

GEORGE MORGAN, ESQ.

OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.[3]

FROM BERMUDA, JANUARY, 1804.

Κεινη δ' ηνεμοεσσα και ατροπος, οια θ' ἁλιπληξ,
Αιθυιης και μαλλον επιδρομος ηεπερ ἱπποις,
Ποντῳ ενεστηρικται.

CALLIMACH. *Hymn in Del.* v. 11.

Oh, what a sea of storm we've pass'd!—
High mountain waves and foamy showers,
And battling winds whose savage blast
But ill agrees with one whose hours
Have pass'd in old Anacreon's bowers.
Yet think not poesy's bright charm
Forsook me in this rude alarm:[4]—

[1] Nothing can be more romantic than the little harbour of St. George's. The number of beautiful islets, the singular clearness of the water, and the animated play of the graceful little boats, gliding for ever between the islands, and seeming to sail from one cedar-grove into another, formed altogether as lovely a miniature of nature's beauties as can well be imagined.

[2] This is an allusion which, to the few who are fanciful enough to indulge in it, renders the scenery of Bermuda particularly interesting. In the short but beautiful twilight of their spring evenings, the white cottages, scattered over the islands, and but partially seen through the trees that surround them, assume often the appearance of little Grecian temples; and a vivid fancy may embellish the poor fisherman's hut with columns such as the pencil of a Claude might imitate. I had one favourite object of this kind in my walks, which the hospitality of its owner robbed me of, by asking me to visit him. He was a plain good man, and received me well and warmly, but I could never turn his house into a Grecian temple again.

[3] This gentleman is attached to the British consulate at Norfolk. His talents are worthy of a much higher sphere; but the excellent dispositions of the family with whom he resides, and the cordial repose he enjoys amongst some of the kindest hearts in the world, should be almost enough to atone to him for the worst caprices of fortune. The consul himself, Colonel Hamilton, is one among the very few instances of a man, ardently loyal to his king, and yet beloved by the Americans. His house is the very temple of hospitality, and I sincerely pity the heart of that stranger who, warm from the welcome of such a board, could sit down to write a libel on his host, in the true spirit of a modern philosophist. See the Travels of the Duke de la Rouchefoucault Liancourt, vol. ii.

[4] We were seven days on our passage from Norfolk to Bermuda, during three of which we were forced to lay-to in a gale of wind. The Driver sloop of war, in which I went,

When close they reef'd the timid sail,
  When, every plank complaining loud,
We labour'd in the midnight gale,
  And ev'n our haughty main-mast bow'd,
Even then, in that unlovely hour,
The Muse still brought her soothing power,
And, midst the war of waves and wind,
In song's Elysium lapp'd my mind.
Nay, when no numbers of my own
Responded to her wakening tone,
She open'd, with her golden key,
  The casket where my memory lays,
Those gems of classic poesy,
  Which time has sav'd from ancient days.

Take one of these, to Lais sung,—
I wrote it while my hammock swung,
As one might write a dissertation
Upon "Suspended Animation!"

Sweet[1] is your kiss, my Lais dear,
But, with that kiss I feel a tear
Gush from your eyelids, such as start
When those who've dearly lov'd must part.
Sadly you lean your head to mine,
And mute those arms around me twine,
Your hair adown my bosom spread,
All glittering with the tears you shed.
In vain I've kiss'd those lids of snow,
For still, like ceaseless founts they flow,
Bathing our cheeks, whene'er they meet.
Why is it thus? do, tell me, sweet!
Ah, Lais! are my bodings right?
Am I to lose you? is to-night
Our last——go, false to heaven and me!
Your very tears are treachery.

Such, while in air I floating hung,
  Such was the strain, Morgante mio!

The muse and I together sung,
  With Boreas to make out the trio.
But, bless the little fairy isle!
  How sweetly after all our ills,
We saw the sunny morning smile
  Serenely o'er its fragrant hills;
And felt the pure, delicious flow
Of airs, that round this Eden blow
Freshly as ev'n the gales that come
O'er our own healthy hills at home.

Could you but view the scenery fair,
  That now beneath my window lies,
You'd think, that nature lavish'd there
  Her purest wave, her softest skies,
To make a heaven for love to sigh in,
For bards to live and saints to die in.
Close to my wooded bank below,
  In glassy calm the waters sleep,
And to the sunbeam proudly show
  The coral rocks they love to steep.[2]
The fainting breeze of morning fails;
  The drowsy boat moves slowly past,
And I can almost touch its sails
  As loose they flap around the mast.
The noontide sun a splendour pours
That lights up all these leafy shores;
While his own heav'n, its clouds and beams,
  So pictur'd in the waters lie,
That each small bark, in passing, seems
  To float along a burning sky.

Oh for the pinnace lent to thee,[3]
  Blest dreamer, who, in vision bright,
Didst sail o'er heaven's solar sea
  And touch at all its isles of light.
Sweet Venus, what a clime he found
Within thy orb's ambrosial round![4]—
There spring the breezes, rich and warm,
  That sigh around thy vesper car;

was built at Bermuda of cedar, and is accounted an excellent sea-boat. She was then commanded by my very much regretted friend Captain Compton, who in July last was killed aboard the Lilly in an action with a French privateer. Poor Compton! he fell a victim to the strange impolicy of allowing such a miserable thing as the Lilly to remain in the service; so small, crank, and unmanageable, that a well-manned merchantman was at any time a match for her.

[1] This epigram is by Paul the Silentiary, and may be found in the Analecta of Brunck, vol. iii. p. 72. As the reading there is somewhat different from what I have followed in this translation, I shall give it as I had it in my memory at the time, and as it is in Heinsius, who, I believe, first produced the epigram. See his Poemata.

Ἡδυ μεν εστι φιλημα το Λαιδος· ἡδυ δε αυτων
  Ηπιοδινητων δακρυ χεεις βλεφαρων,
Και πολυ κιχλιζουσα σοβεις ευβοστρυχον αιγλην,
  Ἡμετερα κεφαλην δηρον ερεισαμενη.
Μυρομενην δ' εφιλησα· τα δ' ὡς δροσερης απο πηγης,
  Δακρυα μιγνυμενων πιπτε κατα στοματων·
Ειπε δ' ανειρομενῳ, τινος ούνεκα δακρυα λειβεις;
  Δειδια μη με λιπης· εστε γαρ ὀρκαπαται.

[2] The water is so clear around the island, that the rocks are seen beneath to a very great depth; and, as we entered the harbour, they appeared to us so near the surface that it seemed impossible we should not strike on them. There is no necessity, of course, for heaving the lead; and the negro pilot, looking down at the rocks from the bow of the ship, takes her through this difficult navigation, with a skill and confidence which seem to astonish some of the oldest sailors.

[3] In Kircher's "Ecstatic Journey to Heaven," Cosmiel, the genius of the world, gives Theodidactus a boat of asbestos, with which he embarks into the regions of the sun. "Vides (says Cosmiel) hanc asbestinam naviculam commoditati tuæ præparatam."—*Itinerar.* I. Dial. i. cap. 5. This work of Kircher abounds with strange fancies.

[4] When the Genius of the world and his fellow-traveller arrive at the planet Venus, they find an island of loveliness, full of odours and intelligences, where angels preside, who shed the cosmetic influence of this planet over the earth;

And angels dwell, so pure of form
That each appears a living star.[1]
These are the sprites, celestial queen!
Thou sendest nightly to the bed
Of her I love, with touch unseen
Thy planet's bright'ning tints to shed;
To lend that eye a light still clearer,
To give that cheek one rose-blush more,
And bid that blushing lip be dearer,
Which had been all too dear before.

But, whither means the muse to roam?
'Tis time to call the wand'rer home.
Who could have thought the nymph would perch her
Up in the clouds with Father Kircher?
So, health and love to all your mansion!
Long may the bowl that pleasures bloom in,
The flow of heart, the soul's expansion,
Mirth and song, your board illumine.
At all your feasts, remember too,
When cups are sparkling to the brim,
That here is one who drinks to you,
And, oh! as warmly drink to him.

LINES,

WRITTEN IN A STORM AT SEA.

THAT sky of clouds is not the sky
To light a lover to the pillow
Of her he loves—
The swell of yonder foaming billow
Resembles not the happy sigh
That rapture moves.

Yet do I feel more tranquil far
Amid the gloomy wilds of ocean,
In this dark hour,
Than when, in passion's young emotion,
I've stolen, beneath the evening star,
To Julia's bower.

Oh! there's a holy calm profound
In awe like this, that ne'er was given
To pleasure's thrill;
'Tis as a solemn voice from heaven,
And the soul, listening to the sound,
Lies mute and still.

'Tis true, it talks of danger nigh,
Of slumb'ring with the dead to-morrow
In the cold deep,
Where pleasure's throb or tears of sorrow
No more shall wake the heart or eye,
But all must sleep.

Well!—there are some, thou stormy bed,
To whom thy sleep would be a treasure;
Oh! most to him,
Whose lip hath drain'd life's cup of pleasure,
Nor left one honey drop to shed
Round sorrow's brim.

Yes—*he* can smile serene at death:
Kind heaven, do thou but chase the weeping
Of friends who love him;
Tell them that he lies calmly sleeping
Where sorrow's sting or envy's breath
No more shall move him.

ODES TO NEA;

WRITTEN AT BERMUDA.

NEA τυραννει.—EURIPID. *Medea*, v. 967.

NAY, tempt me not to love again,
There was a time when love was sweet;
Dear Nea! had I known thee then,
Our souls had not been slow to meet.
But, oh, this weary heart hath run,
So many a time, the rounds of pain,
Not ev'n for thee, thou lovely one,
Would I endure such pangs again.

If there be climes, where never yet
The print of beauty's foot was set,
Where man may pass his loveless nights,
Unfever'd by her false delights,
Thither my wounded soul would fly,
Where rosy cheek or radiant eye
Should bring no more their bliss, or pain,
Nor fetter me to earth again.
Dear absent girl! whose eyes of light,
Though little priz'd when all my own,

such being, according to astrologers, the "vis influxiva" of Venus. When they are in this part of the heavens, a casuistical question occurs to Theodidactus, and he asks, "Whether baptism may be performed with the waters of Venus?"—"An aquis globi Veneris baptismus institui possit?" to which the Genius answers, "Certainly."

[1] This idea is Father Kircher's. "Tot animatos soles dixisses."—*Itinerar.* I. Dial. i. cap. 5.

Now float before me, soft and bright
As when they first enamouring shone,—
What hours and days have I seen glide,
While fix'd, enchanted, by thy side,
Unmindful of the fleeting day,
I've let life's dream dissolve away.
O bloom of youth profusely shed!
O moments! simply, vainly sped,
Yet sweetly too—for Love perfum'd
The flame which thus my life consum'd;
And brilliant was the chain of flowers,
In which he led my victim-hours.

Say, Nea, say, couldst thou, like her,
When warm to feel and quick to err,
Of loving fond, of roving fonder,
This thoughtless soul might wish to wander,—
Couldst thou, like her, the wish reclaim,
Endearing still, reproaching never,
Till ev'n this heart should burn with shame,
And be thy own more fix'd than ever?
No, no—on earth there's only one
Could bind such faithless folly fast;
And sure on earth but one alone
Could make such virtue false at last!

Nea, the heart which she forsook,
For thee were but a worthless shrine—
Go, lovely girl, that angel look
Must thrill a soul more pure than mine.
Oh! thou shalt be all else to me,
That heart can feel or tongue can feign;
I'll praise, admire, and worship thee,
But must not, dare not, love again.

—— Tale iter omne cave.
PROPERT. lib. iv. eleg. 8.

I PRAY you, let us roam no more
Along that wild and lonely shore,
Where late we thoughtless stray'd;
'Twas not for us, whom heaven intends
To be no more than simple friends,
Such lonely walks were made.

That little Bay, where turning in
From ocean's rude and angry din,
As lovers steal to bliss,
The billows kiss the shore, and then
Flow back into the deep again,
As though they did not kiss.

Remember, o'er its circling flood
In what a dangerous dream we stood—
The silent sea before us,
Around us, all the gloom of grove,
That ever lent its shade to love,
No eye but heaven's o'er us!

I saw you blush, you felt me tremble,
In vain would formal art dissemble
All we then look'd and thought;
'Twas more than tongue could dare reveal,
'Twas ev'ry thing that young hearts feel,
By Love and Nature taught.

I stoop'd to cull, with faltering hand,
A shell that, on the golden sand,
Before us faintly gleam'd;
I trembling rais'd it, and when you
Had kist the shell, I kist it too—
How sweet, how wrong it seem'd!

Oh, trust me, 'twas a place, an hour,
The worst that e'er the tempter's power
Could tangle me or you in;
Sweet Nea, let us roam no more
Along that wild and lonely shore,
Such walks may be our ruin.

You read it in these spell-bound eyes,
And there alone should love be read;
You hear me say it all in sighs,
And thus alone should love be said.

Then dread no more; I will not speak;
Although my heart to anguish thrill,
I'll spare the burning of your cheek,
And look it all in silence still.

Heard you the wish I dar'd to name,
To murmur on that luckless night,
When passion broke the bonds of shame,
And love grew madness in your sight?

Divinely through the graceful dance,
You seem'd to float in silent song,
Bending to earth that sunny glance,
As if to light your steps along.

Oh! how could others dare to touch
That hallow'd form with hand so free,
When but to look was bliss too much,
Too rare for all but Love and me!

With smiling eyes, that little thought
How fatal were the beams they threw,
My trembling hands you lightly caught,
And round me, like a spirit, flew.

Heedless of all, but you alone,—
And *you*, at least, should not condemn,
If, when such eyes before me shone,
My soul forgot all eyes but them,—

I dar'd to whisper passion's vow,—
For love had ev'n of thought bereft me,—
Nay, half-way bent to kiss that brow,
But, with a bound, you blushing left me.

Forget, forget that night's offence,
Forgive it, if, alas! you can;
'Twas love, 'twas passion—soul and sense—
'Twas all that's best and worst in man.

That moment, did th' assembled eyes
Of heaven and earth my madness view,
I should have seen, through earth and skies,
But you alone—but only you.

Did not a frown from you reprove,
Myriads of eyes to me were none;
Enough for me to win your love,
And die upon the spot when won.

A DREAM OF ANTIQUITY.

I JUST had turn'd the classic page,
And trac'd that happy period over,
When blest alike were youth and age,
And love inspir'd the wisest sage,
And wisdom grac'd the tenderest lover.

Before I laid me down to sleep,
Awhile I from the lattice gaz'd
Upon that still and moonlight deep,
With isles like floating gardens rais'd
For Ariel there his sports to keep;
While, gliding 'twixt their leafy shores,
The lone night-fisher plied his oars.

I felt,—so strongly fancy's power
Came o'er me in that witching hour,—
As if the whole bright scenery there
Were lighted by a Grecian sky,
And I then breath'd the blissful air
That late had thrill'd to Sappho's sigh.

Thus, waking, dreamt I,—and when Sleep
Came o'er my sense, the dream went on;
Nor, through her curtain dim and deep,
Hath ever lovelier vision shone.
I thought that, all enrapt, I stray'd
Through that serene, luxurious shade,[1]
Where Epicurus taught the Loves
To polish virtue's native brightness,—
As pearls, we're told, that fondling doves
Have play'd with, wear a smoother whiteness.[2]
'Twas one of those delicious nights
So common in the climes of Greece,
When day withdraws but half its lights,
And all is moonshine, balm, and peace.
And thou wert there, my own belov'd,
And by thy side I fondly rov'd
Through many a temple's reverend gloom,
And many a bower's seductive bloom,
Where Beauty learn'd what Wisdom taught,
And sages sigh'd and lovers thought;
Where schoolmen conn'd no maxims stern,
But all was form'd to soothe or move,
To make the dullest love to learn,
To make the coldest learn to love.

And now the fairy pathway seem'd
To lead us through enchanted ground,
Where all that bard has ever dream'd
Of love or luxury bloom'd around.
Oh! 'twas a bright, bewild'ring scene—
Along the alley's deep'ning green
Soft lamps, that hung like burning flowers,
And scented and illum'd the bowers,
Seem'd, as to him, who darkling roves
Amid the lone Hercynian groves,
Appear those countless birds of light,
That sparkle in the leaves at night,
And from their wings diffuse a ray
Along the traveller's weary way.[3]
'Twas light of that mysterious kind,
Through which the soul perchance may roam,
When it has left this world behind,
And gone to seek its heavenly home.

[1] Gassendi thinks that the gardens, which Pausanias mentions, in his first book, were those of Epicurus; and Stuart says, in his Antiquities of Athens, "Near this convent (the convent of Hagios Asomatos) is the place called at present Kepoi, or the Gardens; and Ampelos Kepos, or the Vineyard Garden: these were probably the gardens which Pausanias visited." Vol. i. chap. 2.

[2] This method of polishing pearls, by leaving them awhile to be played with by doves, is mentioned by the fanciful Cardanus, de Rerum Varietat. lib. viii. cap. 34.

[3] In Hercynio Germaniæ saltu inusitata genera alitum accepimus, quarum plumæ, ignium modo, colluceant noctibus. —*Plin.* lib. x. cap. 47.

And, Nea, thou wert by my side,
Through all this heav'n-ward path my guide.

But, lo, as wand'ring thus we rang'd
That upward path, the vision chang'd;
And now, methought, we stole along
Through halls of more voluptuous glory
Than ever liv'd in Teian song,
Or wanton'd in Milesian story.[1]
And nymphs were there, whose very eyes
Seem'd soften'd o'er with breath of sighs;
Whose ev'ry ringlet, as it wreath'd,
A mute appeal to passion breath'd.
Some flew, with amber cups, around,
Pouring the flowery wines of Crete;[2]
And, as they pass'd with youthful bound,
The onyx shone beneath their feet.[3]
While others, waving arms of snow
Entwin'd by snakes of burnish'd gold,[4]
And showing charms, as loth to show,
Through many a thin Tarentian fold,[5]
Glided among the festal throng
Bearing rich urns of flowers along.
Where roses lay, in languor breathing,
And the young beegrape[6], round them wreathing,
Hung on their blushes warm and meek,
Like curls upon a rosy cheek.

Oh, Nea! why did morning break
The spell that thus divinely bound me?
Why did I wake? how *could* I wake
With thee my own and heaven around me!

Well—peace to thy heart, though another's it be,
And health to that cheek, though it bloom not for me!
To-morrow I sail for those cinnamon groves,[7]
Where nightly the ghost of the Carribee roves,
And, far from the light of those eyes, I may yet
Their allurements forgive and their splendour forget.

Farewell to Bermuda[8], and long may the bloom
Of the lemon and myrtle its valleys perfume;
May spring to eternity hallow the shade,
Where Ariel has warbled and Waller[9] has stray'd.
And thou—when, at dawn, thou shalt happen to roam
Through the lime-covered alley that leads to thy home,
Where oft, when the dance and the revel were done,
And the stars were beginning to fade in the sun,
I have led thee along, and have told by the way
What my heart all the night had been burning to say—
Oh! think of the past—give a sigh to those times,
And a blessing for me to that alley of limes.

If I were yonder wave, my dear,
And thou the isle it clasps around,
I would not let a foot come near
My land of bliss, my fairy ground.

If I were yonder conch of gold,
And thou the pearl within it plac'd,
I would not let an eye behold
The sacred gem my arms embrac'd.

If I were yonder orange-tree,
And thou the blossom blooming there,
I would not yield a breath of thee
To scent the most imploring air.

[1] The Milesiacs, or Milesian fables, had their origin in Miletus, a luxurious town of Ionia. Aristides was the most celebrated author of these licentious fictions. See *Plutarch* (in Crasso), who calls them ακολαστα βιβλια.

[2] "Some of the Cretan wines, which Athenæus calls οινος ανθοσμιας, from their fragrancy resembling that of the finest flowers.—*Barry on Wines*, chap. vii.

[3] It appears that in very splendid mansions, the floor or pavement was frequently of onyx. Thus Martial: "Calcatusque tuo sub pede lucet onyx." Epig. 50. lib. xii.

[4] Bracelets of this shape were a favourite ornament among the women of antiquity. Οι επικαρσιοι ορμοι και αι χρυσαι πεδαι Θαιδος και Αρισταγορας και Λαιδος φαρμακα.—*Philostrat.* Epist. xl. Lucian, too, tells us of the βραχιοσι δρακοντες. See his Amores, where he describes the dressing-room of a Grecian lady, and we find the "silver vase," the rouge, the tooth-powder, and all the "mystic order" of a modern toilet.

[5] Ταραντινιδιον, διαφανες ενδυμα, ονομασμενον απο της Ταραντινων χρησεως και τρυφης.—*Pollux.*

[6] Apiana, mentioned by Pliny, lib. xiv. and "now called the Muscatell (a muscarum telis)," says Pancirollus, book i. sect. 1. chap. 17.

[7] I had, at this time, some idea of paying a visit to the West Indies.

[8] The inhabitants pronounce the name as if it were written Bermooda. See the commentators on the words "still-vex'd Bermoothes," in the Tempest.—I wonder it did not occur to some of those all-reading gentlemen that, possibly, the discoverer of this "island of hogs and devils" might have been no less a personage than the great John Bermudez, who, about the same period (the beginning of the sixteenth century), was sent Patriarch of the Latin church to Ethiopia, and has left us most wonderful stories of the Amazons and the Griffins which he encountered.—*Travels of the Jesuits*, vol. i. I am afraid, however, it would take the Patriarch rather too much out of his way.

[9] Johnson does not think that Waller was ever at Bermuda; but the "Account of the European Settlements in America" affirms it confidently. (Vol. ii.) I mention this work, however, less for its authority than for the pleasure I feel in quoting an unacknowledged production of the great Edmund Burke.

Oh! bend not o'er the water's brink,
Give not the wave that odorous sigh,
Nor let its burning mirror drink
The soft reflection of thine eye.

That glossy hair, that glowing cheek,
So pictur'd in the waters seem,
That I could gladly plunge to seek
Thy image in the glassy stream.

Blest fate! at once my chilly grave
And nuptial bed that stream might be;
I'll wed thee in its mimic wave,
And die upon the shade of thee.

Behold the leafy mangrove, bending
O'er the waters blue and bright,
Like Nea's silky lashes, lending
Shadow to her eyes of light.

Oh, my belov'd! where'er I turn,
Some trace of thee enchants mine eyes;
In every star thy glances burn;
Thy blush on every flow'ret lies.

Nor find I in creation aught
Of bright, or beautiful, or rare,
Sweet to the sense, or pure to thought,
But thou art found reflected there.

THE

SNOW SPIRIT.

No, ne'er did the wave in its element steep
An island of lovelier charms;
It blooms in the giant embrace of the deep,
Like Hebe in Hercules' arms.
The blush of your bowers is light to the eye,
And their melody balm to the ear;
But the fiery planet of day is too nigh,
And the Snow Spirit never comes here.

The down from his wing is as white as the pearl
That shines through thy lips when they part,
And it falls on the green earth as melting, my girl,
As a murmur of thine on the heart.
Oh! fly to the clime, where he pillows the death,
As he cradles the birth of the year;
Bright are your bowers and balmy their breath,
But the Snow Spirit cannot come here.

How sweet to behold him, when born on the gale,
And brightening the bosom of morn,
He flings, like the priest of Diana, a veil
O'er the brow of each virginal thorn.
Yet think not the veil he so chillingly casts
Is the veil of a vestal severe;
No, no, thou wilt see, what a moment it lasts,
Should the Snow Spirit ever come here.

But fly to his region—lay open thy zone,
And he'll weep all his brilliancy dim,
To think that a bosom, as white as his own,
Should not melt in the daybeam like him.
Oh! lovely the print of those delicate feet
O'er his luminous path will appear—
Fly, fly, my beloved! this island is sweet,
But the Snow Spirit cannot come here.

Ενταυθα δε καθωρμισται ἡμιν. καὶ ὁ, τι μεν ονομα τῃ νησῳ, ουκ οἰδα· χρυσῃ δ' αν πως γε ἐμου ονομαζοιτο. — PHILOSTRAT. *Icon.* 17. lib. ii.

I STOLE along the flowery bank,
While many a bending seagrape[1] drank
The sprinkle of the feathery oar
That wing'd me round this fairy shore.

'Twas noon; and every orange bud
Hung languid o'er the crystal flood,
Faint as the lids of maiden's eyes
When love-thoughts in her bosom rise.
Oh, for a naiad's sparry bower,
To shade me in that glowing hour!

A little dove, of milky hue,
Before me from a plantain flew,
And, light along the water's brim,
I steer'd my gentle bark by him;
For fancy told me, Love had sent
This gentle bird with kind intent
To lead my steps, where I should meet—
I knew not what, but something sweet.

And—bless the little pilot dove!
He had indeed been sent by Love,
To guide me to a scene so dear
As fate allows but seldom here;
One of those rare and brilliant hours,
That, like the aloe's[2] lingering flowers,
May blossom to the eye of man
But once in all his weary span.

[1] The seaside or mangrove grape, a native of the West Indies.

[2] The Agave. This, I am aware, is an erroneous notion, but it is quite true enough for poetry. Plato, I think, allows a poet to be "three removes from truth;" τριτατος απο της αληθειας.

Just where the margin's op'ning shade
A vista from the waters made,
My bird repos'd his silver plume
Upon a rich banana's bloom.
Oh vision bright! oh spirit fair!
What spell, what magic rais'd her there?
'Twas Nea! slumb'ring calm and mild,
And bloomy as the dimpled child,
Whose spirit in elysium keeps
Its playful sabbath, while he sleeps.

The broad banana's green embrace
Hung shadowy round each tranquil grace;
One little beam alone could win
The leaves to let it wander in,
And, stealing over all her charms,
From lip to cheek, from neck to arms,
New lustre to each beauty lent,—
Itself all trembling as it went!

Dark lay her eyelid's jetty fringe
Upon that cheek whose roseate tinge
Mix'd with its shade, like evening's light
Just touching on the verge of night.
Her eyes, though thus in slumber hid,
Seem'd glowing through the ivory lid,
And, as I thought, a lustre threw
Upon her lip's reflecting dew,—
Such as a night-lamp, left to shine
Alone on some secluded shrine,
May shed upon the votive wreath,
Which pious hands have hung beneath.

Was ever vision half so sweet!
Think, think how quick my heart-pulse beat,
As o'er the rustling bank I stole;—
Oh! ye, that know the lover's soul,
It is for you alone to guess,
That moment's trembling happiness.

A STUDY FROM THE ANTIQUE.

Behold, my love, the curious gem
Within this simple ring of gold;
'Tis hallow'd by the touch of them
Who liv'd in classic hours of old.

Some fair Athenian girl, perhaps,
Upon her hand this gem display'd,
Nor thought that time's succeeding lapse
Should see it grace a lovelier maid.

Look, dearest, what a sweet design!
The more we gaze, it charms the more;
Come—closer bring that cheek to mine,
And trace with me its beauties o'er.

Thou seest, it is a simple youth
By some enamour'd nymph embrac'd—
Look, as she leans, and say in sooth,
Is not that hand most fondly plac'd?

Upon his curled head behind
It seems in careless play to lie,[1]
Yet presses gently, half inclin'd
To bring the truant's lip more nigh.

Oh happy maid! too happy boy!
The one so fond and little loath,
The other yielding slow to joy—
Oh rare, indeed, but blissful both.

Imagine, love, that I am he,
And just as warm as he is chilling;
Imagine, too, that thou art she,
But quite as coy as she is willing:

So may we try the graceful way
In which their gentle arms are twin'd,
And thus, like her, my hand I lay
Upon thy wreathed locks behind:

And thus I feel thee breathing sweet,
As slow to mine thy head I move;
And thus our lips together meet,
And thus,—and thus,—I kiss thee, love.

—— λιβανοτω εικασεν, ὁτι απολλυμενον ευφραινει.
Aristot. *Rhetor.* lib. iii. cap. 4.

There's not a look, a word of thine,
My soul hath e'er forgot;
Thou ne'er hast bid a ringlet shine,
Nor giv'n thy locks one graceful twine
Which I remember not.

There never yet a murmur fell
From that beguiling tongue,
Which did not, with a ling'ring spell,
Upon my charmed senses dwell,
Like songs from Eden sung.

[1] Somewhat like the symplegma of Cupid and Psyche at Florence, in which the position of Psyche's hand is finely and delicately expressive of affection. See the Museum Florentinum, tom. ii. tab. 43, 44. There are few subjects on which poetry could be more interestingly employed than in illustrating some of these ancient statues and gems.

Ah! that I could, at once, forget
All, all that haunts me so—
And yet, thou witching girl,—and yet,
To die were sweeter than to let
The lov'd remembrance go.

No; if this slighted heart must see
Its faithful pulse decay,
Oh let it die, rememb'ring thee,
And, like the burnt aroma, be
Consum'd in sweets away.

TO

JOSEPH ATKINSON, ESQ.

FROM BERMUDA.[1]

"THE daylight is gone—but, before we depart,
"One cup shall go round to the friend of my heart,
"The kindest, the dearest—oh! judge by the tear
"I now shed while I name him, how kind and how dear."

'Twas thus in the shade of the Calabash-Tree,
With a few, who could feel and remember like me,
The charm that, to sweeten my goblet, I threw
Was a sigh to the past and a blessing on you.

Oh! say, is it thus, in the mirth-bringing hour,
When friends are assembled, when wit, in full flower,
Shoots forth from the lip, under Bacchus's dew,
In blossoms of thought ever springing and new—
Do you sometimes remember, and hallow the brim
Of your cup with a sigh, as you crown it to him
Who is lonely and sad in these valleys so fair,
And would pine in elysium, if friends were not there!

Last night, when we came from the Calabash-Tree,
When my limbs were at rest and my spirit was free,
The glow of the grape and the dreams of the day
Set the magical springs of my fancy in play,
And oh,—such a vision has haunted me then
I would slumber for ages to witness again.
The many I like and the few I adore,
The friends who were dear and beloved before,
But never till now so beloved and dear,
At the call of my fancy, surrounded me here;
And soon,—oh, at once, did the light of their smiles
To a paradise brighten this region of isles;
More lucid the wave, as they look'd on it, flow'd,
And brighter the rose, as they gather'd it, glow'd.
Not the valleys Heræan (though water'd by rills
Of the pearliest flow, from those pastoral hills,[2]
Where the Song of the Shepherd, primeval and wild,
Was taught to the nymphs by their mystical child,)
Could boast such a lustre o'er land and o'er wave
As the magic of love to this paradise gave.

[1] Pinkerton has said that "a good history and description of the Bermudas might afford a pleasing addition to the geographical library;" but there certainly are not materials for such a work. The island, since the time of its discovery, has experienced so very few vicissitudes, the people have been so indolent, and their trade so limited, that there is but little which the historian could amplify into importance; and, with respect to the natural productions of the country, the few which the inhabitants can be induced to cultivate are so common in the West Indies, that they have been described by every naturalist who has written any account of those islands.

It is often asserted by the trans-Atlantic politicians that this little colony deserves more attention from the mother-country than it receives, and it certainly possesses advantages of situation, to which we should not be long insensible, if it were once in the hands of an enemy. I was told by a celebrated friend of Washington, at New York, that they had formed a plan for its capture towards the conclusion of the American War; "with the intention (as he expressed himself) of making it a nest of hornets for the annoyance of British trade in that part of the world." And there is no doubt it lies so conveniently in the track to the West Indies, that an enemy might with ease convert it into a very harassing impediment.

The plan of Bishop Berkeley for a college at Bermuda, where American savages might be converted and educated, though concurred in by the government of the day, was a wild and useless speculation. Mr. Hamilton, who was governor of the island some years since, proposed, if I mistake not, the establishment of a marine academy for the instruction of those children of West Indians, who might be intended for any nautical employment. This was a more rational idea, and for something of this nature the island is admirably calculated. But the plan should be much more extensive, and embrace a general system of education; which would relieve the colonists from the alternative to which they are reduced at present, of either sending their sons to England for instruction, or intrusting them to colleges in the states of America, where ideas, by no means favourable to Great Britain, are very sedulously inculcated.

The women of Bermuda, though not generally handsome, have an affectionate languor in their look and manner, which is always interesting. What the French imply by their epithet *aimante* seems very much the character of the young Bermudian girls—that predisposition to loving, which, without being awakened by any particular object, diffuses itself through the general manner in a tone of tenderness that never fails to fascinate. The men of the island, I confess, are not very civilised; and the old philosopher, who imagined that, after this life, men would be changed into mules, and women into turtle-doves, would find the metamorphosis in some degree anticipated at Bermuda.

[2] Mountains of Sicily, upon which Daphnis, the first inventor of bucolic poetry, was nursed by the nymphs. See the lively description of these mountains in Diodorus Siculus, lib. iv. Ἡρεια γαρ ορη κατα την Σικελιαν εστιν, ἁ φασι καλλει, κ. τ. λ.

Oh magic of love! unembellished by you,
Hath the garden a blush or the landscape a hue?
Or shines there a vista in nature or art,
Like that which Love opes thro' the eye to the heart?

Alas, that a vision so happy should fade!
That, when morning around me in brilliancy play'd,
The rose and the stream I had thought of at night
Should still be before me, unfadingly bright;
While the friends, who had seem'd to hang over the stream,
And to gather the roses, had fled with my dream.

But look, where, all ready, in sailing array,
The bark that's to carry these pages away,[1]
Impatiently flutters her wing to the wind,
And will soon leave these islets of Ariel behind.
What billows, what gales is she fated to prove,
Ere she sleep in the lee of the land that I love!
Yet pleasant the swell of the billows would be,
And the roar of those gales would be music to me.
Not the tranquillest air that the winds ever blew,
Not the sunniest tears of the summer-eve dew,
Were as sweet as the storm, or as bright as the foam
Of the surge, that would hurry your wanderer home.

THE

STEERSMAN'S SONG,

WRITTEN ABOARD THE BOSTON FRIGATE 28TH APRIL.[2]

When freshly blows the northern gale,
And under courses snug we fly;
Or when light breezes swell the sail,
And royals proudly sweep the sky;
'Longside the wheel, unwearied still
I stand, and, as my watchful eye
Doth mark the needle's faithful thrill,
I think of her I love, and cry,
Port, my boy! port.

When calms delay, or breezes blow
Right from the point we wish to steer;
When by the wind close-haul'd we go,
And strive in vain the port to near;
I think 'tis thus the fates defer
My bliss with one that's far away,
And while remembrance springs to her,
I watch the sails and sighing say,
Thus, my boy! thus.

But see the wind draws kindly aft,
All hands are up the yards to square,
And now the floating stu'n-sails waft
Our stately ship through waves and air.
Oh! then I think that yet for me
Some breeze of fortune thus may spring,
Some breeze to waft me, love, to thee—
And in that hope I smiling sing,
Steady, boy! so.

TO

THE FIRE-FLY.[3]

At morning, when the earth and sky
Are glowing with the light of spring,
We see thee not, thou humble fly!
Nor think upon thy gleaming wing.

But when the skies have lost their hue,
And sunny lights no longer play,
Oh then we see and bless thee too
For sparkling o'er the dreary way.

Thus let me hope, when lost to me
The lights that now my life illume,
Some milder joys may come, like thee,
To cheer, if not to warm, the gloom!

TO

THE LORD VISCOUNT FORBES.

FROM THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

If former times had never left a trace
Of human frailty in their onward race,
Nor o'er their pathway written, as they ran,
One dark memorial of the crimes of man;
If every age, in new unconscious prime,
Rose like a phenix, from the fires of time,

[1] A ship, ready to sail for England.

[2] I left Bermuda in the Boston about the middle of April, in company with the Cambrian and Leander, aboard the latter of which was the Admiral, Sir Andrew Mitchell, who divides his year between Halifax and Bermuda, and is the very soul of society and good-fellowship to both. We separated in a few days, and the Boston, after a short cruise, proceeded to New York.

[3] The lively and varying illumination, with which these fire-flies light up the woods at night, gives quite an idea of enchantment. "Puis ces mouches se développant de l'obscurité de ces arbres et s'approchant de nous, nous les voyions sur les orangers voisins, qu'ils mettoient tout en feu, nous rendant la vue de leurs beaux fruits dorés que la nuit avoit ravie," &c. &c. — See *L'Histoire des Antilles*, art. 2. chap. 4. liv. i.

To wing its way unguided and alone,
The future smiling and the past unknown;
Then ardent man would to himself be new,
Earth at his foot and heaven within his view:
Well might the novice hope, the sanguine scheme
Of full perfection prompt his daring dream,
Ere cold experience, with her veteran lore,
Could tell him, fools had dreamt as much before.
But, tracing as we do, through age and clime,
The plans of virtue midst the deeds of crime,
The thinking follies and the reasoning rage
Of man, at once the idiot and the sage;
When still we see, through every varying frame
Of arts and polity, his course the same,
And know that ancient fools but died, to make
A space on earth for modern fools to take;
'Tis strange, how quickly we the past forget;
That Wisdom's self should not be tutor'd yet,
Nor tire of watching for the monstrous birth
Of pure perfection midst the sons of earth!

Oh! nothing but that soul which God has given,
Could lead us thus to look on earth for heaven;
O'er dross without to shed the light within,
And dream of virtue while we see but sin.

Even here, beside the proud Potowmac's stream,
Might sages still pursue the flatt'ring theme
Of days to come, when man shall conquer fate,
Rise o'er the level of his mortal state,
Belie the monuments of frailty past,
And plant perfection in this world at last!
"Here," might they say, "shall power's divided reign
"Evince that patriots have not bled in vain.
"Here godlike liberty's herculean youth,
"Cradled in peace, and nurtur'd up by truth
"To full maturity of nerve and mind,
"Shall crush the giants that bestride mankind.[1]
"Here shall religion's pure and balmy draught
"In form no more from cups of state be quaff'd,
"But flow for all, through nation, rank, and sect,
"Free as that heaven its tranquil waves reflect.
"Around the columns of the public shrine
"Shall growing arts their gradual wreath intwine,
"Nor breathe corruption from the flow'ring braid,
"Nor mine that fabric which they bloom to shade.
"No longer here shall justice bound her view,
"Or wrong the many, while she rights the few;
"But take her range through all the social frame,
"Pure and pervading as that vital flame
"Which warms at once our best and meanest part,
"And thrills a hair while it expands a heart!"

Oh golden dream! what soul that loves to scan
The bright disk rather than the dark of man,
That owns the good, while smarting with the ill,
And loves the world with all its frailty still,—
What ardent bosom does not spring to meet
The generous hope, with all that heavenly heat,
Which makes the soul unwilling to resign
The thoughts of growing, even on earth, divine!
Yes, dearest friend, I see thee glow to think
The chain of ages yet may boast a link
Of purer texture than the world has known,
And fit to bind us to a Godhead's throne.

But, is it thus? doth even the glorious dream
Borrow from truth that dim, uncertain gleam,
Which tempts us still to give such fancies scope,
As shock not reason, while they nourish hope?
No, no, believe me, 'tis not so — ev'n now,
While yet upon Columbia's rising brow
The showy smile of young presumption plays,
Her bloom is poison'd and her heart decays.
Even now, in dawn of life, her sickly breath
Burns with the taint of empires near their death;
And, like the nymphs of her own with'ring clime,
She's old in youth, she's blasted in her prime.[2]

Already has the child of Gallia's school
The foul Philosophy that sins by rule,
With all her train of reasoning, damning arts,
Begot by brilliant heads on worthless hearts,
Like things that quicken after Nilus' flood,
The venom'd birth of sunshine and of mud,—
Already has she pour'd her poison here
O'er every charm that makes existence dear;
Already blighted, with her black'ning trace,
The op'ning bloom of every social grace,
And all those courtesies, that love to shoot
Round virtue's stem, the flow'rets of her fruit.

And were these errors but the wanton tide
Of young luxuriance or unchasten'd pride;

[1] Thus Morse. "Here the sciences and the arts of civilised life are to receive their highest improvements: here civil and religious liberty are to flourish, unchecked by the cruel hand of civil or ecclesiastical tyranny: here genius, aided by all the improvements of former ages, is to be exerted in humanising mankind, in expanding and enriching their minds with religious and philosophical knowledge," &c. &c. — P. 569.

[2] "What will be the old age of this government, if it is thus early decrepit!" Such was the remark of Fauchet, the French minister at Philadelphia, in that famous despatch to his government, which was intercepted by one of our cruisers in the year 1794. This curious memorial may be found in Porcupine's Works, vol. i. p. 279. It remains a striking monument of republican intrigue, on one side and republican profligacy on the other; and I would recommend the perusal of it to every honest politician, who may labour under a moment's delusion with respect to the purity of American patriotism.

The fervid follies and the faults of such
As wrongly feel, because they feel too much ;
Then might experience make the fever less,
Nay, graft a virtue on each warm excess.
But no; 'tis heartless, speculative ill,
All youth's transgression with all age's chill;
The apathy of wrong, the bosom's ice,
A slow and cold stagnation into vice.

Long has the love of gold, that meanest rage,
And latest folly of man's sinking age,
Which, rarely venturing in the van of life,
While nobler passions wage their heated strife,
Comes skulking last, with selfishness and fear,
And dies, collecting lumber in the rear,—
Long has it palsied every grasping hand
And greedy spirit through this bartering land;
Turn'd life to traffic, set the demon gold
So loose abroad that virtue's self is sold,
And conscience, truth, and honesty are made
To rise and fall, like other wares of trade.[1]

Already in this free, this virtuous state,
Which, Frenchmen tell us, was ordain'd by fate,
To show the world, what high perfection springs
From rabble senators, and merchant kings,—
Even here already patriots learn to steal
Their private perquisites from public weal,
And, guardians of the country's sacred fire,
Like Afric's priests, let out the flame for hire.
Those vaunted demagogues, who nobly rose
From England's debtors to be England's foes,[2]
Who could their monarch in their purse forget,
And break allegiance, but to cancel debt,[3]
Have prov'd at length, the mineral's tempting hue,
Which makes a patriot, can unmake him too.[4]
Oh ! Freedom, Freedom, how I hate thy cant !
Not Eastern bombast, not the savage rant
Of purpled madmen, were they number'd all
From Roman Nero down to Russian Paul,
Could grate upon my ear so mean, so base,
As the rank jargon of that factious race,
Who, poor of heart and prodigal of words,
Formed to be slaves, yet struggling to be lords,
Strut forth, as patriots, from their negro-marts,
And shout for rights, with rapine in their hearts.

Who can, with patience, for a moment see
The medley mass of pride and misery,
Of whips and charters, manacles and rights,
Of slaving blacks and democratic whites,[5]
And all the piebald polity that reigns
In free confusion o'er Columbia's plains?
To think that man, thou just and gentle God!
Should stand before thee with a tyrant's rod
O'er creatures like himself, with souls from thee,
Yet dare to boast of perfect liberty;
Away, away — I'd rather hold my neck
By doubtful tenure from a sultan's beck,
In climes, where liberty has scarce been nam'd,
Nor any right but that of ruling claim'd,
Than thus to live, where bastard Freedom waves
Her fustian flag in mockery over slaves ;
Where — motley laws admitting no degree
Betwixt the vilely slav'd and madly free —
Alike the bondage and the licence suit,
The brute made ruler and the man made brute.

But, while I thus, my friend, in flowerless song,
So feebly paint, what yet I feel so strong,
The ills, the vices of the land, where first
Those rebel fiends, that rack the world, were nurst,
Where treason's arm by royalty was nerv'd,
And Frenchmen learn'd to crush the throne they serv'd —
Thou, calmly lull'd in dreams of classic thought,
By bards illumin'd and by sages taught,
Pant'st to be all, upon this mortal scene,
That bard hath fancied or that sage hath been.
Why should I wake thee ? why severely chase
The lovely forms of virtue and of grace,

[1] " Nous voyons que, dans les pays où l'on n'est affecté que de l'esprit de commerce, on trafique de toutes les actions humaines et de toutes les vertus morales." — *Montesquieu, de l'Esprit des Lois*, liv. xx. chap. 2.

[2] I trust I shall not be suspected of a wish to justify those arbitrary steps of the English government which the colonies found it so necessary to resist; my only object here is to expose the selfish motive of some of the leading American demagogues.

[3] The most persevering enemy to the interests of this country, amongst the politicians of the western world, has been a Virginian merchant, who, finding it easier to settle his conscience than his debts, was one of the first to raise the standard against Great Britain, and has ever since endeavoured to revenge upon the whole country the obligations which he lies under to a few of its merchants.

[4] See Porcupine's account of the Pennsylvania Insurrection in 1794. In short, see Porcupine's works throughout, for ample corroboration of every sentiment which I have ventured to express. In saying this, I refer less to the comments of that writer than to the occurrences which he has related and the documents which he has preserved. Opinion may be suspected of bias, but facts speak for themselves.

[5] In Virginia the effects of this system begin to be felt rather seriously. While the master raves of liberty, the slave cannot but catch the contagion, and accordingly there seldom elapses a month without some alarm of insurrection amongst the negroes. The accession of Louisiana, it is feared, will increase this embarrassment; as the numerous emigrations, which are expected to take place, from the southern states to this newly acquired territory, will considerably diminish the white population, and thus strengthen the proportion of negroes, to a degree which must ultimately be ruinous.

That dwell before thee, like the pictures spread
By Spartan matrons round the genial bed,
Moulding thy fancy, and with gradual art
Bright'ning the young conceptions of thy heart.

Forgive me, Forbes—and should the song destroy
One generous hope, one throb of social joy,
One high pulsation of the zeal for man,
Which few can feel, and bless that few who can,—
Oh! turn to him, beneath whose kindred eyes
Thy talents open and thy virtues rise,
Forget where nature has been dark or dim,
And proudly study all her lights in him.
Yes, yes, in him the erring world forget,
And feel that man *may* reach perfection yet.

TO

THOMAS HUME, ESQ. M.D.

FROM THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Διηγησομαι διηγηματα ισως απιστα. κοινωνα ὡν πεπονθα ουκ εχων. XENOPHONT. EPHES. *Ephesiac.* lib. v.

'Tis evening now; beneath the western star
Soft sighs the lover through his sweet segar,
And fills the ears of some consenting she
With puffs and vows, with smoke and constancy.
The patriot, fresh from Freedom's councils come,
Now pleas'd retires to lash his slaves at home;
Or woo, perhaps, some black Aspasia's charms,
And dream of freedom in his bondsmaid's arms.[1]

In fancy now, beneath the twilight gloom,
Come, let me lead thee o'er this "second Rome!"[2]
Where tribunes rule, where dusky Davi bow,
And what was Goose-Creek once is Tiber now[3]:—
This embryo capital, where Fancy sees
Squares in morasses, obelisks in trees;
Which second-sighted seers, ev'n now, adorn
With shrines unbuilt and heroes yet unborn,
Though nought but woods[4] and J———n they see,
Where streets should run and sages *ought* to be.

And look, how calmly in yon radiant wave,
The dying sun prepares his golden grave.
Oh mighty river! oh ye banks of shade!
Ye matchless scenes, in nature's morning made,
While still, in all th' exuberance of prime,
She pour'd her wonders, lavishly sublime,
Nor yet had learn'd to stoop, with humbler care,
From grand to soft, from wonderful to fair;—
Say, were your towering hills, your boundless floods,
Your rich savannas and majestic woods,
Where bards should meditate and heroes rove,
And woman charm, and man deserve her love,—
Oh say, was world so bright, but born to grace
Its own half-organised, half-minded race[5]
Of weak barbarians, swarming o'er its breast,
Like vermin gender'd on the lion's crest?
Were none but brutes to call that soil their home,
Where none but demigods should dare to roam?
Or worse, thou wondrous world! oh! doubly worse,
Did heaven design thy lordly land to nurse
The motley dregs of every distant clime,
Each blast of anarchy and taint of crime
Which Europe shakes from her perturbed sphere,
In full malignity to rankle here?

[1] The "black Aspasia" of the present ********* of the United States, inter Avernales haud ignotissima nymphas, has given rise to much pleasantry among the anti-democrat wits in America.

[2] "On the original location of the ground now allotted for the seat of the Federal City (says Mr. Weld), the identical spot on which the capitol now stands was called Rome. This anecdote is related by many as a certain prognostic of the future magnificence of this city, which is to be, as it were, a second Rome."—*Weld's Travels*, letter iv.

[3] A little stream runs through the city, which, with intolerable affectation, they have styled the Tiber. It was originally called Goose-Creek.

[4] "To be under the necessity of going through a deep wood for one or two miles, perhaps, in order to see a next-door neighbour, and in the same city, is a curious and, I believe, a novel circumstance."—*Weld*, letter iv.

The Federal City (if it must be called a city) has not been much increased since Mr. Weld visited it. Most of the public buildings, which were then in some degree of forwardness, have been since utterly suspended. The hotel is already a ruin; a great part of its roof has fallen in, and the rooms are left to be occupied gratuitously by the miserable Scotch and Irish emigrants. The President's house, a very noble structure, is by no means suited to the philosophical humility of its present possessor, who inhabits but a corner of the mansion himself, and abandons the rest to a state of uncleanly desolation, which those who are not philosophers cannot look at without regret. This grand edifice is encircled by a very rude paling, through which a common rustic stile introduces the visiters of the first man in America. With respect to all that is within the house, I shall imitate the prudent forbearance of Herodotus, and say, *τα δε εν αποῤῥητῳ*.

The private buildings exhibit the same characteristic display of arrogant speculation and premature ruin; and the few ranges of houses which were begun some years ago have remained so long waste and unfinished, that they are now for the most part dilapidated.

[5] The picture which Buffon and De Pauw have drawn of the American Indian, though very humiliating, is, as far as I can judge, much more correct than the flattering representations which Mr. Jefferson has given us. See the Notes on Virginia, where this gentleman endeavours to disprove in general the opinion maintained so strongly by some philosophers that nature (as Mr. Jefferson expresses it) *be-littles* her productions in the western world. M. de Pauw attributes the imperfection of animal life in America to the ravages of a very recent deluge, from whose effects upon its soil and atmosphere it has not yet sufficiently recovered.—*Recherches sur les Américains*, part i. tom. i. p. 102.

But hold,—observe yon little mount of pines,
Where the breeze murmurs and the fire-fly shines.
There let thy fancy raise, in bold relief,
The sculptur'd image of that veteran chief[1]
Who lost the rebel's in the hero's name,
And climb'd o'er prostrate loyalty to fame;
Beneath whose sword Columbia's patriot train
Cast off their monarch, that their mob might reign.

How shall we rank thee upon glory's page?
Thou more than soldier and just less than sage!
Of peace too fond to act the conqueror's part,
Too long in camps to learn a statesman's art,
Nature design'd thee for a hero's mould,
But, ere she cast thee, let the stuff grow cold.

While loftier souls command, nay, make their fate,
Thy fate made thee and forc'd thee to be great.
Yet Fortune, who so oft, so blindly sheds
Her brightest halo round the weakest heads,
Found *thee* undazzled, tranquil as before,
Proud to be useful, scorning to be more;
Less mov'd by glory's than by duty's claim,
Renown the meed, but self-applause the aim;
All that thou *wert* reflects less fame on thee,
Far less, than all thou didst *forbear to be.*
Nor yet the patriot of one land alone,—
For, thine's a name all nations claim their own;
And every shore, where breath'd the good and brave,
Echo'd the plaudits thy own country gave.

Now look, my friend, where faint the moonlight falls
On yonder dome, and, in those princely halls,—
If thou canst hate, as sure that soul must hate,
Which loves the virtuous, and reveres the great,—
If thou canst loathe and execrate with me
The poisonous drug of French philosophy,
That nauseous slaver of these frantic times,
With which false liberty dilutes her crimes,—
If thou hast got, within thy freeborn breast,
One pulse that beats more proudly than the rest,
With honest scorn for that inglorious soul,
Which creeps and winds beneath a mob's control,
Which courts the rabble's smile, the rabble's nod,
And makes, like Egypt, every beast its god,
There, in those walls—but, burning tongue, forbear!
Rank must be reverenc'd, even the rank that's there:
So here I pause—and now, dear Hume, we part:
But oft again, in frank exchange of heart,
Thus let us meet, and mingle converse dear
By Thames at home, or by Potowmac here.
O'er lake and marsh, through fevers and through fogs,
Midst bears and yankees, democrats and frogs,
Thy foot shall follow me, thy heart and eyes
With me shall wonder, and with me despise.[2]
While I, as oft, in fancy's dream shall rove,
With thee conversing, through that land I love,
Where, like the air that fans her fields of green,
Her freedom spreads, unfever'd and serene;
And sovereign man can condescend to see
The throne and laws more sovereign still than he.

LINES

WRITTEN ON LEAVING PHILADELPHIA.

—— Τηνδε την πολιν φιλως
Εισων· ταξια γαρ.
SOPHOCL. *Œdip. Colon.* v. 768.

ALONE by the Schuylkill a wanderer rov'd,
And bright were its flowery banks to his eye;
But far, very far were the friends that he lov'd,
And he gaz'd on its flowery banks with a sigh.

Oh Nature, though blessed and bright are thy rays,
O'er the brow of creation enchantingly thrown,
Yet faint are they all to the lustre that plays
In a smile from the heart that is fondly our own.

Nor long did the soul of the stranger remain
Unblest by the smile he had languish'd to meet;
Though scarce did he hope it would soothe him again,
Till the threshold of home had been prest by his feet.

But the lays of his boyhood had stol'n to their ear,
And they lov'd what they knew of so humble a name;

[1] On a small hill near the capitol there is to be an equestrian statue of General Washington.

[2] In the ferment which the French revolution excited among the democrats of America, and the licentious sympathy with which they shared in the wildest excesses of jacobinism, we may find one source of that vulgarity of vice, that hostility to all the graces of life, which distinguishes the present demagogues of the United States, and has become indeed too generally the characteristic of their countrymen. But there is another cause of the corruption of private morals, which, encouraged as it is by the government, and identified with the interests of the community, seems to threaten the decay of all honest principle in America. I allude to those fraudulent violations of neutrality to which they are indebted for the most lucrative part of their commerce, and by which they have so long infringed and counteracted the maritime rights and advantages of this country. This unwarrantable trade is necessarily abetted by such a system of collusion, imposture, and perjury, as cannot fail to spread rapid contamination around it.

And they told him, with flattery welcome and dear,
That they found in his heart something better than fame.

Nor did woman—oh woman! whose form and whose soul
Are the spell and the light of each path we pursue;
Whether sunn'd in the tropics or chill'd at the pole,
If woman be there, there is happiness too:—

Nor did she her enamouring magic deny,—
That magic his heart had relinquish'd so long,—
Like eyes he had lov'd was *her* eloquent eye,
Like them did it soften and weep at his song.

Oh, blest be the tear, and in memory oft
May its sparkle be shed o'er the wand'rer's dream;
Thrice blest be that eye, and may passion as soft,
As free from a pang, ever mellow its beam!

The stranger is gone—but he will not forget,
When at home he shall talk of the toils he has known,
To tell, with a sigh, what endearments he met,
As he stray'd by the wave of the Schuylkill alone.

LINES

WRITTEN AT

THE COHOS, OR FALLS OF THE MOHAWK RIVER.[1]

Già era in loco ove s' udia 'l rimbombo
Dell' acqua ——. DANTE.

From rise of morn till set of sun
I've seen the mighty Mohawk run;
And as I mark'd the woods of pine
Along his mirror darkly shine,
Like tall and gloomy forms that pass
Before the wizard's midnight glass;
And as I view'd the hurrying pace
With which he ran his turbid race,
Rushing, alike untir'd and wild,
Through shades that frown'd and flowers that smil'd,
Flying by every green recess
That woo'd him to its calm caress,
Yet, sometimes turning with the wind,
As if to leave one look behind,—
Oft have I thought, and thinking sigh'd,
How like to thee, thou restless tide,
May be the lot, the life of him
Who roams along thy water's brim;
Through what alternate wastes of woe
And flowers of joy my path may go;
How many a shelter'd, calm retreat
May woo the while my weary feet,
While still pursuing, still unblest,
I wander on, nor dare to rest;
But, urgent as the doom that calls
Thy water to its destin'd falls,
I feel the world's bewild'ring force
Hurry my heart's devoted course
From lapse to lapse, till life be done,
And the spent current cease to run.

One only prayer I dare to make,
As onward thus my course I take;—
Oh, be my falls as bright as thine!
May heaven's relenting rainbow shine
Upon the mist that circles me,
As soft as now it hangs o'er thee!

SONG

OF

THE EVIL SPIRIT OF THE WOODS.[2]

Qua via difficilis, quaque est via nulla.
OVID. *Metam.* lib. iii. v. 227.

Now the vapour, hot and damp,
Shed by day's expiring lamp,
Through the misty ether spreads
Every ill the white man dreads;
Fiery fever's thirsty thrill.
Fitful ague's shivering chill!

[1] There is a dreary and savage character in the country immediately about these Falls, which is much more in harmony with the wildness of such a scene than the cultivated lands in the neighbourhood of Niagara. See the drawing of them in Mr. Weld's book. According to him, the perpendicular height of the Cohos Fall is fifty feet; but the Marquis de Chastellux makes it seventy-six.

The fine rainbow, which is continually forming and dissolving, as the spray rises into the light of the sun, is perhaps the most interesting beauty which these wonderful cataracts exhibit.

[2] The idea of this poem occurred to me in passing through the very dreary wilderness between Batavia, a new settlement in the midst of the woods, and the little village of Buffalo upon Lake Erie. This is the most fatiguing part of the route, in travelling through the Genesee country to Niagara.

Hark! I hear the traveller's song,
As he winds the woods along;—
Christian, 'tis the song of fear;
Wolves are round thee, night is near,
And the wild thou dar'st to roam—
Think, 'twas once the Indian's home![1]

Hither, sprites, who love to harm,
Whèresoe'er you work your charm,
By the creeks, or by the brakes,
Where the pale witch feeds her snakes,
And the cayman[2] loves to creep,
Torpid, to his wintry sleep:
Where the bird of carrion flits,
And the shudd'ring murderer sits,[3]
Lone beneath a roof of blood;
While upon his poison'd food,
From the corpse of him he slew
Drops the chill and gory dew.

Hither bend ye, turn ye hither,
Eyes that blast and wings that wither!
Cross the wand'ring Christian's way,
Lead him, ere the glimpse of day,
Many a mile of mad'ning error,
Through the maze of night and terror,
Till the morn behold him lying
On the damp earth, pale and dying.
Mock him, when his eager sight
Seeks the cordial cottage-light;
Gleam then, like the lightning-bug,
Tempt him to the den that's dug
For the foul and famish'd brood
Of the she-wolf, gaunt for blood;
Or, unto the dangerous pass
O'er the deep and dark morass,
Where the trembling Indian brings
Belts of porcelain, pipes, and rings,
Tributes, to be hung in air,
To the Fiend presiding there![4]

Then, when night's long labour past,
Wilder'd, faint, he falls at last,
Sinking where the causeway's edge
Moulders in the slimy sedge,
There let every noxious thing
Trail its filth and fix its sting;
Let the bull-toad taint him over,
Round him let mosquitoes hover,
In his ears and eyeballs tingling,
With his blood their poison mingling,
Till, beneath the solar fires,
Rankling all, the wretch expires!

TO

THE HONOURABLE W. R. SPENCER.

FROM BUFFALO, UPON LAKE ERIE.

Nec venit ad duros musa vocata Getas.
OVID. *ex Ponto*, lib. i. ep. 5.

THOU oft hast told me of the happy hours
Enjoy'd by thee, in fair Italia's bowers,
Where, ling'ring yet, the ghost of ancient wit
Midst modern monks profanely dares to flit,
And pagan spirits, by the pope unlaid,
Haunt every stream and sing through every shade.
There still the bard who (if his numbers be
His tongue's light echo) must have talk'd like thee,—
The courtly bard, from whom thy mind has caught
Those playful, sunshine holidays of thought,
In which the spirit baskingly reclines,
Bright without effort, resting while it shines,—
There still he roves, and laughing loves to see
How modern priests with ancient rakes agree;
How, 'neath the cowl, the festal garland shines,
And Love still finds a niche in Christian shrines.

There still, too, roam those other souls of song,
With whom thy spirit hath commun'd so long,
That, quick as light, their rarest gems of thought,
By Memory's magic to thy lip are brought.

[1] "The Five Confederated Nations (of Indians) were settled along the banks of the Susquehannah and the adjacent country, until the year 1779, when General Sullivan, with an army of 4000 men, drove them from their country to Niagara, where, being obliged to live on salted provisions, to which they were unaccustomed, great numbers of them died. Two hundred of them, it is said, were buried in one grave, where they had encamped."—*Morse's American Geography.*

[2] The alligator, who is supposed to lie in a torpid state all the winter, in the bank of some creek or pond, having previously swallowed a large number of pine-knots, which are his only sustenance during the time.

[3] This was the mode of punishment for murder (as Charlevoix tells us) among the Hurons. "They laid the dead body upon poles at the top of a cabin, and the murderer was obliged to remain several days together, and to receive all that dropped from the carcass, not only on himself but on his food."

[4] "We find also collars of porcelain, tobacco, ears of maize, skins, &c. by the side of difficult and dangerous ways, on rocks, or by the side of the falls; and these are so many offerings made to the spirits which preside in these places."—See *Charlevoix's Letter on the Traditions and the Religion of the Savages of Canada.*

Father Hennepin too mentions this ceremony; he also says, "We took notice of one barbarian, who made a kind of sacrifice upon an oak at the Cascade of St. Antony of Padua, upon the river Mississippi."—See *Hennepin's Voyage into North America.*

But here, alas! by Erie's stormy lake,
As, far from such bright haunts my course I take,
No proud remembrance o'er the fancy plays,
No classic dream, no star of other days
Hath left that visionary light behind,
That ling'ring radiance of immortal mind,
Which gilds and hallows even the rudest scene,
The humblest shed, where genius once has been!

All that creation's varying mass assumes
Of grand or lovely, here aspires and blooms;
Bold rise the mountains, rich the gardens glow,
Bright lakes expand, and conquering[1] rivers flow;
But mind, immortal mind, without whose ray,
This world's a wilderness and man but clay,
Mind, mind alone, in barren, still repose,
Nor blooms, nor rises, nor expands, nor flows.
Take Christians, Mohawks, democrats, and all
From the rude wig-wam to the congress-hall,
From man the savage, whether slav'd or free,
To man the civiliz'd, less tame than he,—
'Tis one dull chaos, one unfertile strife
Betwixt half-polish'd and half barbarous life;
Where every ill the ancient world could brew
Is mix'd with every grossness of the new;
Where all corrupts, though little can entice,
And nought is known of luxury, but its vice!

Is this the region then, is this the clime
For soaring fancies? for those dreams sublime,
Which all their miracles of light reveal
To heads that meditate and hearts that feel?
Alas! not so—the Muse of Nature lights
Her glories round; she scales the mountain heights,
And roams the forests; every wondrous spot
Burns with her step, yet man regards it not.
She whispers round, her words are in the air,
But lost, unheard, they linger freezing there,[3]
Without one breath of soul, divinely strong,
One ray of mind to thaw them into song.

Yet, yet forgive me, oh ye sacred few,
Whom late by Delaware's green banks I knew;
Whom, known and lov'd through many a social eve,
'Twas bliss to live with, and 'twas pain to leave.[3]

Not with more joy the lonely exile scann'd
The writing trac'd upon the desert's sand,
Where his lone heart but little hop'd to find
One trace of life, one stamp of human kind,
Than did I hail the pure, th' enlighten'd zeal,
The strength to reason and the warmth to feel,
The manly polish and the illumin'd taste,
Which,—'mid the melancholy, heartless waste
My foot has travers'd,—oh you sacred few!
I found by Delaware's green banks with you.

Long may you loathe the Gallic dross that runs
Through your fair country and corrupts its sons;
Long love the arts, the glories which adorn
Those fields of freedom, where your sires were born.
Oh! if America can yet be great,
If neither chain'd by choice, nor doom'd by fate
To the mob-mania which imbrutes her now,
She yet can raise the crown'd, yet civic brow
Of single majesty,—can add the grace
Of Rank's rich capital to Freedom's base,
Nor fear the mighty shaft will feebler prove
For the fair ornament that flowers above;—
If yet releas'd from all that pedant throng,
So vain of error and so pledg'd to wrong,
Who hourly teach her, like themselves, to hide
Weakness in vaunt, and barrenness in pride,
She yet can rise, can wreathe the Attic charms
Of soft refinement round the pomp of arms,
And see her poets flash the fires of song,
To light her warriors' thunderbolts along;—
It is to you, to souls that favouring heaven
Has made like yours, the glorious task is given:—
Oh! but for *such*, Columbia's days were done;
Rank without ripeness, quicken'd without sun,
Crude at the surface, rotten at the core,
Her fruits would fall, before her spring were o'er.

Believe me, Spencer, while I wing'd the hours
Where Schuylkill winds his way through banks of flowers,
Though few the days, the happy evenings few,
So warm with heart, so rich with mind they flew,
That my charm'd soul forgot its wish to roam,
And rested there, as in a dream of home.

[1] This epithet was suggested by Charlevoix's striking description of the confluence of the Missouri with the Mississippi. "I believe this is the finest confluence in the world. The two rivers are much of the same breadth, each about half a league; but the Missouri is by far the most rapid, and seems to enter the Mississippi like a conqueror, through which it carries its white waves to the opposite shore, without mixing them: afterwards it gives its colour to the Mississippi, which it never loses again, but carries quite down to the sea."—Letter xxvii.

[2] Alluding to the fanciful notion of "words congealed in northern air."

[3] In the society of Mr. Dennie and his friends, at Philadelphia, I passed the few agreeable moments which my tour through the States afforded me. Mr. Dennie has succeeded in diffusing through this cultivated little circle that love for good literature and sound politics, which he feels so zealously himself, and which is so very rarely the characteristic of his countrymen. They will not, I trust, accuse me of illiberality for the picture which I have given of the ignorance and corruption that surround them. If I did not hate, as I ought, the rabble to which they are opposed, I could not value, as I do, the spirit with which they defy it; and in learning from them what Americans *can be*, I but see with the more indignation what Americans *are*.

And looks I met, like looks I'd lov'd before,
And voices too, which, as they trembled o'er
The chord of memory, found full many a tone
Of kindness there in concord with their own.
Yes,—we had nights of that communion free,
That flow of heart, which I have known with thee
So oft, so warmly; nights of mirth and mind,
Of whims that taught, and follies that refin'd.
When shall we both renew them? when, restor'd
To the gay feast and intellectual board,
Shall I once more enjoy with thee and thine
Those whims that teach, those follies that refine?
Even now, as wand'ring upon Erie's shore,
I hear Niagara's distant cataract roar,
I sigh for home,—alas! these weary feet
Have many a mile to journey, ere we meet.

Ω ΠΑΤΡΙΣ, ΩΣ ΣΟΥ ΚΑΡΤΑ ΝΤΝ ΜΝΕΙΑΝ ΕΧΩ.
EURIPIDES.

BALLAD STANZAS.

I KNEW by the smoke, that so gracefully curl'd
Above the green elms, that a cottage was near,
And I said, "If there's peace to be found in the world,
"A heart that was humble might hope for it here!"

It was noon, and on flowers that languish'd around
In silence repos'd the voluptuous bee;
Every leaf was at rest, and I heard not a sound
But the woodpecker tapping the hollow beech-tree.

And, "Here in this lone little wood," I exclaim'd
With a maid who was lovely to soul and to eye,
"Who would blush when I prais'd her, and weep if I blam'd,
"How blest could I live, and how calm could I die!

"By the shade of yon sumach, whose red berry dips
"In the gush of the fountain, how sweet to recline,
"And to know that I sigh'd upon innocent lips,
"Which had never been sigh'd on by any but mine!"

A CANADIAN BOAT SONG.

WRITTEN ON

THE RIVER ST. LAWRENCE.[1]

Et remigem cantus hortatur.
QUINTILIAN.

FAINTLY as tolls the evening chime
Our voices keep tune and our oars keep time.
Soon as the woods on shore look dim,
We'll sing at St. Ann's our parting hymn.[2]
Row, brothers, row, the stream runs fast,
The Rapids are near and the daylight's past.

Why should we yet our sail unfurl?
There is not a breath the blue wave to curl;
But, when the wind blows off the shore,
Oh! sweetly we'll rest our weary oar.
Blow, breezes, blow, the stream runs fast,
The Rapids are near and the daylight's past.

Utawas' tide! this trembling moon
Shall see us float over thy surges soon.

[1] I wrote these words to an air which our boatmen sung to us frequently. The wind was so unfavourable that they were obliged to row all the way, and we were five days in descending the river from Kingston to Montreal, exposed to an intense sun during the day, and at night forced to take shelter from the dews in any miserable hut upon the banks that would receive us. But the magnificent scenery of the St. Lawrence repays all such difficulties.

Our *voyageurs* had good voices, and sung perfectly in tune together. The original words of the air, to which I adapted these stanzas, appeared to be a long, incoherent story, of which I could understand but little, from the barbarous pronunciation of the Canadians. It begins

Dans mon chemin j'ai rencontré
Deux cavaliers très-bien montés;

And the *refrain* to every verse was,

A l'ombre d'un bois je m'en vais jouer,
A l'ombre d'un bois je m'en vais danser.

I ventured to harmonise this air, and have published it. Without that charm which association gives to every little memorial of scenes or feelings that are past, the melody may, perhaps, be thought common and trifling; but I remember when we have entered, at sunset, upon one of those beautiful lakes, into which the St. Lawrence so grandly and unexpectedly opens, I have heard this simple air with a pleasure which the finest compositions of the first masters have never given me; and now there is not a note of it which does not recall to my memory the dip of our oars in the St. Lawrence, the flight of our boat down the Rapids, and all those new and fanciful impressions to which my heart was alive during the whole of this very interesting voyage.

The above stanzas are supposed to be sung by those *voyageurs* who go to the Grand Portage by the Utawas River. For an account of this wonderful undertaking, see Sir Alexander Mackenzie's General History of the Fur Trade, prefixed to his Journal.

[2] "At the Rapid of St. Ann they are obliged to take out part, if not the whole, of their lading. It is from this spot the Canadians consider they take their departure, as it possesses the last church on the island, which is dedicated to the tutelar saint of voyagers."—*Mackenzie, General History of the Fur Trade.*

Saint of this green isle! hear our prayers,
Oh, grant us cool heavens and favouring airs.
Blow, breezes, blow, the stream runs fast,
The Rapids are near and the daylight's past.

TO THE

LADY CHARLOTTE RAWDON.

FROM THE BANKS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

Nor many months have now been dream'd away
Since yonder sun, beneath whose evening ray
Our boat glides swiftly past these wooded shores,
Saw me where Trent his mazy current pours,
And Donington's old oaks, to every breeze,
Whisper the tale of by-gone centuries;—
Those oaks, to me as sacred as the groves,
Beneath whose shade the pious Persian roves,
And hears the spirit-voice of sire, or chief,
Or loved mistress, sigh in every leaf. [1]
There, oft, dear Lady, while thy lip hath sung
My own unpolish'd lays, how proud I've hung
On every tuneful accent! proud to feel
That notes like mine should have the fate to steal,
As o'er thy hallowing lip they sigh'd along,
Such breath of passion and such soul of song.
Yes,—I have wonder'd, like some peasant boy
Who sings, on Sabbath-eve, his strains of joy,
And when he hears the wild, untutor'd note
Back to his ear on softening echoes float,
Believes it still some answering spirit's tone,
And thinks it all too sweet to be his own!

I dreamt not then that, e'er the rolling year
Had fill'd its circle, I should wander here
In musing awe; should tread this wondrous world,
See all its store of inland waters hurl'd
In one vast volume down Niagara's steep,
Or calm behold them, in transparent sleep,
Where the blue hills of old Toronto shed
Their evening shadows o'er Ontario's bed;
Should trace the grand Cadaraqui, and glide
Down the white rapids of his lordly tide
Through massy woods, mid islets flowering fair,
And blooming glades, where the first sinful pair
For consolation might have weeping trod,
When banish'd from the garden of their God.
Oh, Lady! these are miracles, which man,
Cag'd in the bounds of Europe's pigmy span,
Can scarcely dream of,—which his eye must see
To know how wonderful this world can be!

But lo,—the last tints of the west decline,
And night falls dewy o'er these banks of pine.
Among the reeds, in which our idle boat
Is rock'd to rest, the wind's complaining note
Dies like a half-breath'd whispering of flutes;
Along the wave the gleaming porpoise shoots,
And I can trace him, like a watery star, [2]
Down the steep current, till he fades afar
Amid the foaming breakers' silvery light,
Where yon rough rapids sparkle through the night.
Here, as along this shadowy bank I stray,
And the smooth glass-snake [3], gliding o'er my way,
Shows the dim moonlight through his scaly form,
Fancy, with all the scene's enchantment warm,
Hears in the murmur of the nightly breeze
Some Indian Spirit warble words like these:—

From the land beyond the sea,
Whither happy spirits flee;
Where, transform'd to sacred doves, [4]
Many a blessed Indian roves
Through the air on wing, as white
As those wondrous stones of light, [5]
Which the eye of morning counts
On the Apallachian mounts,—
Hither oft my flight I take
Over Huron's lucid lake,
Where the wave, as clear as dew,
Sleeps beneath the light canoe,
Which, reflected, floating there,
Looks as if it hung in air. [6]

[1] "Avendo essi per costume di avere in venerazione gli alberi grandi et antichi, quasi che siano spesso ricettaccoli di anime beate."—*Pietro della Valle*, part. second., lettera 16 da i giardini di Sciraz.

[2] Anburey, in his Travels, has noticed this shooting illumination which porpoises diffuse at night through the river St. Lawrence.—Vol. i. p. 29.

[3] The glass-snake is brittle and transparent.

[4] "The departed spirit goes into the Country of Souls, where, according to some, it is transformed into a dove."—*Charlevoix, upon the Traditions and the Religion of the Savages of Canada.* See the curious fable of the American Orpheus in Lafitau, tom. i. p. 402.

[5] "The mountains appeared to be sprinkled with white stones, which glistened in the sun, and were called by the Indians manetoe aseniah, or spirit-stones."—*Mackenzie's Journal.*

[6] These lines were suggested by Carver's description of one of the American lakes. "When it was calm," he says, "and the sun shone bright, I could sit in my canoe, where the depth was upwards of six fathoms, and plainly see huge piles of stone at the bottom, of different shapes, some of which appeared as if they had been hewn; the water was at *this* time as pure and transparent as air, and my canoe seemed as if it hung suspended in that element. It was impossible to look attentively through this limpid medium, at the rocks below, without finding, before many minutes were elapsed, your head swim and your eyes no longer able to behold the dazzling scene."

Then, when I have stray'd a while
Through the Manataulin isle,[1]
Breathing all its holy bloom,
Swift I mount me on the plume
Of my Wakon-Bird[2], and fly
Where, beneath a burning sky,
O'er the bed of Erie's lake
Slumbers many a water-snake,
Wrapt within the web of leaves,
Which the water-lily weaves.[3]
Next I chase the flow'ret-king
Through his rosy realm of spring;
See him now, while diamond hues
Soft his neck and wings suffuse,
In the leafy chalice sink,
Thirsting for his balmy drink;
Now behold him all on fire,
Lovely in his looks of ire,
Breaking every infant stem,
Scatt'ring every velvet gem,
Where his little tyrant lip
Had not found enough to sip.

Then my playful hand I steep
Where the gold-thread[4] loves to creep,
Cull from thence a tangled wreath,
Words of magic round it breathe,
And the sunny chaplet spread
O'er the sleeping fly-bird's head,[5]
Till, with dreams of honey blest,
Haunted, in his downy nest,
By the garden's fairest spells,
Dewy buds and fragrant bells,
Fancy all his soul embowers
In the fly-bird's heaven of flowers.

Oft, when hoar and silvery flakes
Melt along the ruffled lakes,
When the gray moose sheds his horns,
When the track, at evening, warns
Weary hunters of the way
To the wig-wam's cheering ray,
Then, aloft through freezing air,
With the snow-bird[6] soft and fair
As the fleece that heaven flings
O'er his little pearly wings,
Light above the rocks I play,
Where Niagara's starry spray,
Frozen on the cliff, appears
Like a giant's starting tears.
There, amid the island-sedge,
Just upon the cataract's edge,
Where the foot of living man
Never trod since time began,
Lone I sit, at close of day,
While, beneath the golden ray,
Icy columns gleam below,
Feather'd round with falling snow,
And an arch of glory springs,
Sparkling as the chain of rings
Round the neck of virgins hung,—
Virgins[7], who have wander'd young
O'er the waters of the west
To the land where spirits rest!

Thus have I charm'd, with visionary lay,
The lonely moments of the night away;
And now, fresh daylight o'er the water beams!
Once more embark'd upon the glitt'ring streams,
Our boat flies light along the leafy shore,
Shooting the falls, without a dip of oar
Or breath of zephyr, like the mystic bark
The poet saw, in dreams divinely dark,
Borne, without sails, along the dusky flood,[8]
While on its deck a pilot angel stood,
And, with his wings of living light unfurl'd,
Coasted the dim shores of another world!

Yet, oh! believe me, mid this mingled maze
Of nature's beauties, where the fancy strays

[1] Après avoir traversé plusieurs isles peu considérables, nous en trouvâmes le quatrième jour une fameuse nommée l'Isle de Manitoualin. — *Voyages du Baron de Luhontan*, tom. i. let. 15. Manataulin signifies a Place of Spirits, and this island in Lake Huron is held sacred by the Indians.

[2] "The Wakon-Bird, which probably is of the same species with the Bird of Paradise, receives its name from the ideas the Indians have of its superior excellence; the Wakon-Bird being, in their language, the Bird of the Great Spirit." — *Morse*.

[3] The islands of Lake Erie are surrounded to a considerable distance by the large pond-lily, whose leaves spread thickly over the surface of the lake, and form a kind of bed for the water-snakes in summer.

[4] "The gold thread is of the vine kind, and grows in swamps. The roots spread themselves just under the surface of the morasses, and are easily drawn out by handfuls. They resemble a large entangled skein of silk, and are of a bright yellow." — *Morse*.

[5] "L'oiseau mouche, gros comme un hanneton, est de toutes couleurs, vives et changeantes: il tire sa subsistence des fleurs comme les abeilles; son nid est fait d'un cotton très-fin suspendu à une branche d'arbre." — *Voyages aux Indes Occidentales, par M. Bossu*, seconde part, lett. xx.

[6] Emberiza hyemalis. — See *Imlay's Kentucky*, p. 280.

[7] Lafitau supposes that there was an order of vestals established among the Iroquois Indians. — *Mœurs des Sauvages Américains, &c.* tom. i. p. 173.

[8] Vedi che sdegna gli argomenti umani;
Si che remo non vuol, ne altro velo,
Che l' ale sue tra liti si lontani.

Vedi come l' ha dritte verso 'l cielo
Trattando l' aere con l' eterne penne;
Che non si mutan, come mortal pelo.

DANTE, *Purgator.* cant. ii.

From charm to charm, where every flow'ret's hue
Hath something strange, and every leaf is new,—
I never feel a joy so pure and still,
So inly felt, as when some brook or hill,
Or veteran oak, like those remember'd well,
Some mountain echo or some wild-flower's smell,
(For, who can say by what small fairy ties
The mem'ry clings to pleasure as it flies?)
Reminds my heart of many a silvan dream
I once indulg'd by Trent's inspiring stream;
Of all my sunny morns and moonlight nights
On Donnington's green lawns and breezy heights.

Whether I trace the tranquil moments o'er
When I have seen thee cull the fruits of lore,
With him, the polish'd warrior, by thy side,
A sister's idol and a nation's pride!
When thou hast read of heroes, trophied high
In ancient fame, and I have seen thine eye
Turn to the living hero, while it read,
For pure and bright'ning comments on the dead;—
Or whether memory to my mind recalls
The festal grandeur of those lordly halls,
When guests have met around the sparkling board,
And welcome warm'd the cup that luxury pour'd;
When the bright future star of England's throne,
With magic smile, hath o'er the banquet shone,
Winning respect, nor claiming what he won,
But tempering greatness, like an evening sun
Whose light the eye can tranquilly admire,
Radiant, but mild, all softness, yet all fire;—
Whatever hue my recollections take,
Even the regret, the very pain they wake
Is mix'd with happiness;—but, ah! no more—
Lady! adieu—my heart has linger'd o'er
Those vanish'd times, till all that round me lies,
Stream, banks, and bowers have faded on my eyes!

IMPROMPTU,

AFTER A VISIT TO MRS. ——, OF MONTREAL.

'Twas but for a moment—and yet in that time
She crowded th' impressions of many an hour:
Her eye had a glow, like the sun of her clime,
Which wak'd every feeling at once into flower.

Oh! could we have borrow'd from Time but a day,
To renew such impressions again and again,
The things we should look and imagine and say
Would be worth all the life we had wasted till then.

What we had not the leisure or language to speak,
We should find some more spiritual mode of revealing,
And, between us, should feel just as much in a week
As others would take a millennium in feeling.

ON PASSING DEADMAN'S ISLAND,[1]

WRITTEN IN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE, LATE IN THE EVENING, SEPTEMBER, 1804.

See you, beneath yon cloud so dark,
Fast gliding along a gloomy bark?
Her sails are full,—though the wind is still,
And there blows not a breath her sails to fill!

Say what doth that vessel of darkness bear?
The silent calm of the grave is there,
Save now and again a death-knell rung,
And the flap of the sails with night-fog hung.

There lieth a wreck on the dismal shore
Of cold and pitiless Labrador;
Where, under the moon, upon mounts of frost,
Full many a mariner's bones are tost.

Yon shadowy bark hath been to that wreck,
And the dim blue fire, that lights her deck,
Doth play on as pale and livid a crew
As ever yet drank the churchyard dew.

To Deadman's Isle, in the eye of the blast,
To Deadman's Isle, she speeds her fast;
By skeleton shapes her sails are furl'd,
And the hand that steers is not of this world!

[1] This is one of the Magdalen Islands, and, singularly enough, is the property of Sir Isaac Coffin. The above lines were suggested by a superstition very common among sailors, who call this ghost-ship, I think, "the flying Dutchman."

We were thirteen days on our passage from Quebec to Halifax, and I had been so spoiled by the truly splendid hospitality of my friends of the Phaeton and Boston, that I was but ill prepared for the miseries of a Canadian vessel. The weather, however, was pleasant, and the scenery along the river delightful. Our passage through the Gut of Canso, with a bright sky and a fair wind, was particularly striking and romantic.

Oh! hurry thee on—oh! hurry thee on,
Thou terrible bark, ere the night be gone,
Nor let morning look on so foul a sight
As would blanch for ever her rosy light!

TO

THE BOSTON FRIGATE,[1]

ON

LEAVING HALIFAX FOR ENGLAND,

OCTOBER, 1804.

Νοστου προφασις γλυκειαν.
PINDAR. *Pyth.* 4.

WITH triumph this morning, oh Boston! I hail
The stir of thy deck and the spread of thy sail,
For they tell me I soon shall be wafted, in thee,
To the flourishing isle of the brave and the free,
And that chill Nova-Scotia's unpromising strand[2]
Is the last I shall tread of American land.
Well—peace to the land! may her sons know, at length,
That in high-minded honour lies liberty's strength,
That though man be as free as the fetterless wind,
As the wantonest air that the north can unbind,
Yet, if health do not temper and sweeten the blast,
If no harvest of mind ever sprung where it pass'd,
Then unblest is such freedom, and baleful its might,—
Free only to ruin, and strong but to blight!

Farewell to the few I have left with regret;
May they sometimes recall, what I cannot forget,
The delight of those evenings,—too brief a delight!
When in converse and song we have stol'n on the night;
When they've ask'd me the manners, the mind, or the mien
Of some bard I had known or some chief I had seen,
Whose glory, though distant, they long had ador'd,
Whose name had oft hallow'd the wine-cup they pour'd;
And still as, with sympathy humble but true,
I have told of each bright son of fame all I knew,
They have listen'd, and sigh'd that the powerful stream
Of America's empire should pass, like a dream,
Without leaving one relic of genius, to say
How sublime was the tide which had vanish'd away!
Farewell to the few—though we never may meet
On this planet again, it is soothing and sweet
To think that, whenever my song or my name
Shall recur to their ear, they'll recall me the same
I have been to them now, young, unthoughtful, and blest,
Ere hope had deceiv'd me or sorrow deprest.

But, Douglas! while thus I recall to my mind
The elect of the land we shall soon leave behind,
I can read in the weather-wise glance of thine eye,
As it follows the rack flitting over the sky,
That the faint coming breeze will be fair for our flight,
And shall steal us away, ere the falling of night.
Dear Douglas! thou knowest, with thee by my side,
With thy friendship to soothe me, thy courage to guide,
There is not a bleak isle in those summerless seas,
Where the day comes in darkness, or shines but to freeze,
Not a tract of the line, not a barbarous shore,
That I could not with patience, with pleasure explore!
Oh think then how gladly I follow thee now,
When Hope smooths the billowy path of our prow,
And each prosperous sigh of the west-springing wind
Takes me nearer the home where my heart is inshrin'd;
Where the smile of a father shall meet me again,
And the tears of a mother turn bliss into pain;
Where the kind voice of sisters shall steal to my heart,
And ask it, in sighs, how we ever could part?—

But see!—the bent top-sails are ready to swell—
To the boat—I am with thee—Columbia, farewell!

[1] Commanded by Captain J. E. Douglas, with whom I returned to England, and to whom I am indebted for many, many kindnesses. In truth, I should but offend the delicacy of my friend Douglas, and, at the same time, do injustice to my own feelings of gratitude, did I attempt to say how much I owe to him.

[2] Sir John Wentworth, the Governor of Nova Scotia, very kindly allowed me to accompany him on his visit to the College, which they have lately established at Windsor, about forty miles from Halifax, and I was indeed most pleasantly surprised by the beauty and fertility of the country which opened upon us after the bleak and rocky wilderness by which Halifax is surrounded.—I was told that, in travelling onwards, we should find the soil and the scenery improve, and it gave me much pleasure to know that the worthy Governor has by no means such an "inamabile regnum" as I was, at first sight, inclined to believe.

CORRUPTION, AND INTOLERANCE:

TWO POEMS:

ADDRESSED TO AN ENGLISHMAN BY AN IRISHMAN.

PREFACE.

THE practice which has been lately introduced into literature, of writing very long notes upon very indifferent verses, appears to me rather a happy invention; as it supplies us with a mode of turning dull poetry to account; and as horses too heavy for the saddle may yet serve well enough to draw lumber, so Poems of this kind make excellent beasts of burden, and will bear notes, though they may not bear reading. Besides, the comments in such cases are so little under the necessity of paying any servile deference to the text, that they may even adopt that Socratic dogma, "Quod supra nos nihil ad nos."

In the first of the two following Poems, I have ventured to speak of the Revolution of 1688, in language which has sometimes been employed by Tory writers, and which is therefore neither very new nor popular. But however an Englishman might be reproached with ingratitude, for depreciating the merits and results of a measure, which he is taught to regard as the source of his liberties—however ungrateful it might appear in Alderman B—rch to question for a moment the purity of that glorious era, to which he is indebted for the seasoning of so many orations—yet an Irishman, who has none of these obligations to acknowledge; to whose country the Revolution brought nothing but injury and insult, and who recollects that the book of Molyneux was burned, by order of William's Whig Parliament, for daring to extend to unfortunate Ireland those principles on which the Revolution was professedly founded—an Irishman *may* be allowed to criticise freely the measures of that period, without exposing himself either to the imputation of ingratitude, or to the suspicion of being influenced by any Popish remains of Jacobitism. No nation, it is true, was ever blessed with a more golden opportunity of establishing and securing its liberties for ever than the conjuncture of Eighty-eight presented to the people of Great Britain. But the disgraceful reigns of Charles and James had weakened and degraded the national character. The bold notions of popular right, which had arisen out of the struggles between Charles the First and his Parliament, were gradually supplanted by those slavish doctrines for which Lord H—kesb—ry eulogises the churchmen of that period; and as the Reformation had happened too soon for the purity of religion, so the Revolution came too late for the spirit of liberty. Its advantages accordingly were for the most part specious and transitory, while the evils which it entailed are still felt and still increasing. By rendering unnecessary the frequent exercise of Prerogative,—that unwieldly power which cannot move a step without alarm,—it diminished the only interference of the Crown, which is singly and independently exposed before the people, and whose abuses therefore are obvious to their senses and capacities. Like the myrtle over a celebrated statue in Minerva's temple at Athens, it skilfully veiled from the public eye the only obtrusive feature of royalty. At the same time, however, that the Revolution abridged this unpopular attribute, it amply compensated by the substitution of a new power, as much more potent in its effect as it is more secret in its operations. In the disposal of an immense revenue and the extensive patronage annexed to it, the first foundations of this power of the Crown were laid; the innovation of a standing army at once increased and strengthened it, and the few slight barriers which the Act of Settlement opposed to its progress have all been gradually removed during the whiggish reigns that succeeded; till at length this spirit of influence has become the vital principle of the state,—an agency, subtle and unseen, which pervades every part of the Constitution, lurks under all its forms and regulates all its movements, and,

like the invisible sylph or grace which presides over the motions of beauty,

> " Illam, quicquid agit, quoquo vestigia flectit,
> Componit furtim subsequiturque."

The cause of Liberty and the Revolution are so habitually associated in the minds of Englishmen, that probably in objecting to the latter I may be thought hostile or indifferent to the former. But assuredly nothing could be more unjust than such a suspicion. The very object, indeed, which my humble animadversions would attain is, that in the crisis to which I think England is now hastening, and between which and foreign subjugation she may soon be compelled to choose, the errors and omissions of 1688 should be remedied; and, as it was then her fate to experience a Revolution without Reform, so she may now endeavour to accomplish a Reform without Revolution.

In speaking of the parties which have so long agitated England, it will be observed that I lean as little to the Whigs as to their adversaries. Both factions have been equally cruel to Ireland, and perhaps equally insincere in their efforts for the liberties of England. There is one name, indeed, connected with whiggism of which I can never think but with veneration and tenderness. As justly, however, might the light of the sun be claimed by any particular nation, as the sanction of that name be monopolised by any party whatsoever. Mr. Fox belonged to mankind, and they have lost in him their ablest friend.

With respect to the few lines upon Intolerance, which I have subjoined, they are but the imperfect beginning of a long series of Essays, with which I here menace my readers, upon the same important subject. I shall look to no higher merit in the task, than that of giving a new form to claims and remonstrances, which have often been much more eloquently urged, and which would long ere now have produced their effect, but that the minds of some of our statesmen, like the pupil of the human eye, contract themselves the more, the stronger light there is shed upon them.

CORRUPTION,

AN EPISTLE.

> Νυν δ' ἁπαντ' ὡσπερ ἐξ ἀγορας εκπεπρασται ταυτα· αντεισηκται δε αντι τουτων, ὑφ' ὧν απολωλε και νενοσηκεν ἡ Ἑλλας. Ταυτα δ' ἐστι τι; ζηλος, ει τις ειληφε τι γηλως αν ὁμολογῳ· συγγνωμη τοις ελεγχομενοις· μισος, αν τουτοις τις επιτιμα· ταλλα παντα, ὁσα εκ του δωροδοκειν ηρτηται.
>
> DEMOSTH. *Philipp.* iii.

BOAST on, my friend — though stript of all beside,
Thy struggling nation still retains her pride: [1]
That pride, which once in genuine glory woke
When Marlborough fought, and brilliant St. John spoke;
That pride which still, by time and shame unstung,
Outlives even Wh-tel-cke's sword and H-wk-s-b'ry's tongue!
Boast on, my friend, while in this humbled isle [2]
Where Honour mourns and Freedom fears to smile,
Where the bright light of England's fame is known
But by the shadow o'er our fortunes thrown;
Where, doom'd ourselves to nought but wrongs and slights, [3]
We hear you boast of Britain's glorious rights,
As wretched slaves, that under hatches lie,
Hear those on deck extol the sun and sky!
Boast on, while wandering through my native haunts,
I coldly listen to thy patriot vaunts;
And feel, though close our wedded countries twine,
More sorrow for my own than pride from thine.

Yet pause a moment — and if truths severe
Can find an inlet to that courtly ear,
Which hears no news but W—rd's gazetted lies,
And loves no politics in rhyme but Pye's, —
If aught can please thee but the good old saws
Of " Church and State," and " William's matchless laws,"
And "Acts and Rights of glorious Eighty-eight,"—
Things, which though now a century out of date,
Still serve to ballast, with convenient words,
A few crank arguments for speeching lords, [4] —

[1] Angli suos ac sua omnia impense mirantur; cæteras nationes despectui habent. — *Barclay* (as quoted in one of Dryden's prefaces).

[2] England began very early to feel the effects of cruelty towards her dependencies. " The severity of her government (says Macpherson) contributed more to deprive her of the continental dominions of the family of Plantagenet than the arms of France." — See his *History*, vol. i.

[3] " By the total reduction of the kingdom of Ireland in 1691 (says Burke), the ruin of the native Irish, and in a great measure, too, of the first races of the English, was completely accomplished. The new English interest was settled with as solid a stability as any thing in human affairs can look for. All the penal laws of that unparalleled code of oppression, which were made after the last event, were manifestly the effects of national hatred and scorn towards a conquered people, whom the victors delighted to trample upon, and were not at all afraid to provoke." Yet this is the era to which the wise Common Council of Dublin refer us for " invaluable blessings," &c.

[4] It never seems to occur to those orators and addressers who round off so many sentences and paragraphs with the Bill of Rights, the Act of Settlement, &c., that most of the provisions which these Acts contained for the preservation of parliamentary independence have been long laid aside as romantic and troublesome. I never meet, I confess, with a politician who quotes seriously the Declaration of Rights, &c., to prove the actual existence of English liberty, that I do not

Turn, while I tell how England's freedom found,
Where most she look'd for life, her deadliest wound;
How brave she struggled, while her foe was seen,
How faint since Influence lent that foe a screen;
How strong o'er James and Popery she prevail'd,
How weakly fell, when Whigs and gold assail'd.[1]

While kings were poor, and all those schemes unknown
Which drain the people, to enrich the throne;
Ere yet a yielding Commons had supplied
Those chains of gold by which themselves are tied;
Then proud Prerogative, untaught to creep
With bribery's silent foot on Freedom's sleep,
Frankly avow'd his bold enslaving plan,
And claim'd a right from God to trample man!
But Luther's schism had too much rous'd mankind
For Hampden's truths to linger long behind;
Nor then, when king-like popes had fallen so low,
Could pope-like kings[2] escape the levelling blow.
That ponderous sceptre (in whose place we bow
To the light talisman of influence now),
Too gross, too visible to work the spell
Which modern power performs, in fragments fell:
In fragments lay, till, patch'd and painted o'er
With fleur-de-lys, it shone and scourg'd once more.

'Twas then, my friend, thy kneeling nation quaff'd
Long, long and deep, the churchman's opiate draught
Of passive, prone obedience — then took flight
All sense of man's true dignity and right;
And Britons slept so sluggish in their chain,
That Freedom's watch-voice call'd almost in vain.
Oh England! England! what a chance was thine,
When the last tyrant of that ill-starr'd line
Fled from his sullied crown, and left thee free
To found thy own eternal liberty!
How nobly high, in that propitious hour,
Might patriot hands have rais'd the triple tower[3]
Of British freedom, on a rock divine
Which neither force could storm nor treachery mine!
But, no — the luminous, the lofty plan,
Like mighty Babel, seem'd too bold for man;
The curse of jarring tongues again was given
To thwart a work which rais'd men nearer heaven.
While Tories marr'd what Whigs had scarce begun,
While Whigs undid what Whigs themselves had done,[4]

think of that marquis, whom Montesquieu mentions [a], who set about looking for mines in the Pyrenees, on the strength of authorities which he had read in some ancient authors. The poor marquis toiled and searched in vain. He quoted his authorities to the last, but found no mines after all.

[1] The chief, perhaps the only advantage which has resulted from the system of influence, is that tranquil course of uninterrupted action which it has given to the administration of government. If kings *must* be paramount in the state (and their ministers for the time being always think so), the country is indebted to the Revolution for enabling them to become so quietly, and for removing skilfully the danger of those shocks and collisions which the alarming efforts of prerogative never failed to produce.

Instead of vain and disturbing efforts to establish that speculative balance of the constitution, which, perhaps, has never existed but in the pages of Montesquieu and De Lolme, a preponderance is now silently yielded to one of the three estates, which carries the other two almost insensibly, but still effectually, along with it; and even though the path may lead eventually to destruction, yet its specious and gilded smoothness almost atones for the danger; and, like Milton's bridge over Chaos, it may be said to lead,

"Smooth, easy, inoffensive, down to ——."

[2] The drivelling correspondence between James I. and his "dog Steenie" (the Duke of Buckingham), which we find among the Hardwicke Papers, sufficiently shows, if we wanted any such illustration, into what doting, idiotic brains the plan of arbitrary power may enter.

[3] Tacitus has expressed his opinion, in a passage very frequently quoted, that such a distribution of power as the theory of the British constitution exhibits is merely a subject of bright speculation, "a system more easily praised than practised, and which, even could it happen to exist, would certainly not prove permanent;" and, in truth, a review of England's annals would dispose us to agree with the great historian's remark. For we find that at no period whatever has this balance of the three estates existed; that the nobles predominated till the policy of Henry VII. and his successor reduced their weight by breaking up the feudal system of property; that the power of the Crown became then supreme and absolute, till the bold encroachments of the Commons subverted the fabric altogether; that the alternate ascendency of prerogative and privilege distracted the period which followed the Restoration; and that, lastly, the Acts of 1688, by laying the foundation of an unbounded court-influence, have secured a preponderance to the Throne, which every succeeding year increases. So that the vaunted British constitution has never perhaps existed but in mere theory.

[4] The monarchs of Great Britain can never be sufficiently grateful for that accommodating spirit which led the Revolutionary Whigs to give away the crown, without imposing any of those restraints or stipulations which other men might have taken advantage of so favourable a moment to enforce, and in the framing of which they had so good a model to follow as the limitations proposed by the Lords Essex and Halifax, in the debate upon the Exclusion Bill. They not only condescended, however, to accept of places, but took care that these dignities should be no impediment to their "voice potential" in affairs of legislation; and although an Act was after many years suffered to pass, which by one of its articles disqualified placemen from serving as members of the House of Commons, it was yet not allowed to interfere with the influence of the reigning monarch, nor with that of his successor Anne. The purifying clause, indeed, was not to take effect till after the decease of the latter sovereign, and she very considerately repealed it altogether. So that, as representation has continued ever since, if the king were simple enough to send to foreign courts ambassadors who were most of them in the pay of those courts, he would be just as honestly and faithfully represented as are his people. It would be endless to enumerate all the favours which were conferred upon William

[a] Liv. xxi. chap. 2.

The hour was lost, and William, with a smile,
Saw Freedom weeping o'er the unfinish'd pile!

Hence all the ills you suffer,—hence remain
Such galling fragments of that feudal chain,[1]
Whose links, around you by the Norman flung,
Though loos'd and broke so often, still have clung.
Hence sly Prerogative, like Jove of old,
Has turn'd his thunder into showers of gold,
Whose silent courtship wins securer joys,[2]
Taints by degrees, and ruins without noise.
While parliaments, no more those sacred things
Which make and rule the destiny of kings,
Like loaded dice by ministers are thrown,
And each new set of sharpers cog their own.
Hence the rich oil, that from the Treasury steals,
Drips smooth o'er all the Constitution's wheels,
Giving the old machine such pliant play,[3]
That Court and Commons jog one joltless way,

by those "apostate Whigs." They complimented him with the first suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act which had been hazarded since the confirmation of that privilege; and this example of our Deliverer's reign has not been lost upon any of his successors. They promoted the establishment of a standing army, and circulated in its defence the celebrated "Balancing Letter," in which it is insinuated that England, even then, in her boasted hour of regeneration, was arrived at such a pitch of faction and corruption, that nothing could keep her in order but a Whig ministry and a standing army. They refused, as long as they could, to shorten the duration of parliaments; and though, in the Declaration of Rights, the necessity of such a reform was acknowledged, they were able, by arts not unknown to modern ministers, to brand those as traitors and republicans who urged it.[a] But the grand and distinguishing trait of their measures was the power they bestowed on the Crown of almost annihilating the freedom of elections,—of turning from its course, and for ever defiling that great stream of Representation, which had, even in the most agitated periods, reflected some features of the people, but which, from thenceforth, became the Pactolus, the "aurifer amnis," of the court, and served as a mirror of the national will and popular feeling no longer. We need but consult the writings of that time, to understand the astonishment then excited by measures, which the practice of a century has rendered not only familiar but necessary. See a pamphlet called "The Danger of mercenary Parliaments," 1698; State Tracts, Will. III. vol. ii.; see also "Some Paradoxes presented as a New Year's Gift." (*State Poems*, vol. iii.)

[1] The last great wound given to the feudal system was the Act of the 12th of Charles II., which abolished the tenure of knight's service *in capite*, and which Blackstone compares, for its salutary influence upon property, to the boasted provisions of Magna Charta itself. Yet even in this Act we see the effects of that counteracting spirit which has contrived to weaken every effort of the English nation towards liberty. The exclusion of copyholders from their share of elective rights was permitted to remain as a brand of feudal servitude, and as an obstacle to the rise of that strong counterbalance which an equal representation of property would oppose to the weight of the Crown. If the managers of the Revolution had been sincere in their wishes for reform, they would not only have taken this fetter off the rights of election, but would have renewed the mode adopted in Cromwell's time of increasing the number of knights of the shire, to the exclusion of those rotten insignificant boroughs, which have tainted the whole mass of the constitution. Lord Clarendon calls this measure of Cromwell's "an alteration fit to be more warrantable made, and in a better time." It formed part of Mr. Pitt's plan in 1783; but Pitt's plan of reform was a kind of announced dramatic piece, about as likely to be ever acted as Mr. Sheridan's "Foresters."

[2] ——fore enim tutum iter et patens
Converso in pretium Deo.
Aurum per medios ire satellites, &c.
HORAT.

It would be a task not uninstructive to trace the history of Prerogative from the date of its strength under the Tudor princes, when Henry VII. and his successors "taught the people (as Nathaniel Bacon says)[b] to dance to the tune of Allegiance," to the period of the Revolution, when the Throne, in its attacks upon liberty, began to exchange the noisy explosions of Prerogative for the silent and effectual air-gun of Influence. In following its course, too, since that memorable era, we shall find that, while the royal power has been abridged in branches where it might be made conducive to the interests of the people, it has been left in full and unshackled vigour against almost every point where the integrity of the constitution is vulnerable. For instance, the power of chartering boroughs, to whose capricious abuse in the hands of the Stuarts we are indebted for most of the present anomalies of representation, might, if suffered to remain, have in some degree atoned for its mischief, by restoring the old unchartered boroughs to their rights, and widening more equally the basis of the legislature. But, by the Act of Union with Scotland, this part of the prerogative was removed, lest Freedom should have a chance of being healed, even by the rust of the spear which had formerly wounded her. The dangerous power, however, of creating peers, which has been so often exercised *for* the government *against* the constitution, is still left in free and unqualified activity; notwithstanding the example of that celebrated Bill for the limitation of this ever-budding branch of prerogative, which was proposed in the reign of George I. under the peculiar sanction and recommendation of the Crown, but which the Whigs thought right to reject, with all that characteristic delicacy, which, in general, prevents them, when enjoying the sweets of office themselves, from taking any uncourtly advantage of the Throne. It will be recollected, however, that the creation of the twelve peers by the Tories in Anne's reign (a measure which Swift, like a true party man, defends) gave these upright Whigs all possible alarm for their liberties.

With regard to the generous fit about his prerogative which seized so unroyally the good king George I., historians have hinted that the paroxysm originated far more in hatred to his son than in love to the constitution.[c] This, of course, however, is a calumny: no loyal person, acquainted with the annals of the three Georges, could possibly suspect any *one* of those gracious monarchs either of ill-will to his heir, or indifference for the constitution.

[3] "They drove so fast (says Welwood of the ministers of Charles I.), that it was no wonder that the wheels and chariot broke." (*Memoirs*, p. 35.)—But this fatal accident, if we may judge from experience, is to be imputed far less to the folly and impetuosity of the drivers, than to the want of that

[a] See a pamphlet published in 1693, upon the King's refusing to sign the Triennial Bill, called "A Discourse between a Yeoman of Kent and a Knight of a Shire."—"Hereupon (says the Yeoman) the gentleman grew angry, and said that I talked like a base commons-wealth man."

[b] *Historic. and Politic. Discourse*, &c. part ii. p. 114.

[c] Coxe says that this Bill was projected by Sunderland.

While Wisdom trembles for the crazy car,
So gilt, so rotten, carrying fools so far;
And the dup'd people, hourly doom'd to pay
The sums that bribe their liberties away,[1]—
Like a young eagle, who has lent his plume
To fledge the shaft by which he meets his doom,
See their own feathers pluck'd, to wing the dart
Which rank corruption destines for their heart!
But soft! methinks I hear thee proudly say
"What! shall I listen to the impious lay,
"That dares, with Tory licence, to profane
"The bright bequests of William's glorious reign?
"Shall the great wisdom of our patriot sires,
"Whom H—wks—b—y quotes and savoury
B—rch admires,
"Be slander'd thus? Shall honest St—le agree
"With virtuous R—se to call us pure and free,
"Yet fail to prove it? Shall our patent pair
"Of wise state-poets waste their words in air,
"And P—e unheeded breathe his prosperous
strain,
"And C—nn—ng *take the people's sense* in vain?"[2]

The people!—ah, that Freedom's form should
stay
Where Freedom's spirit long hath pass'd away!
That a false smile should play around the dead,
And flush the features when the soul hath fled![3]
When Rome had lost her virtue with her rights,
When her foul tyrant sat on Capreæ's heights[4]
Amid his ruffian spies, and doom'd to death
Each noble name they blasted with their breath,—
Even then, (in mockery of that golden time,
When the Republic rose revered, sublime,
And her proud sons, diffus'd from zone to zone,
Gave kings to every nation but their own,)
Even then the senate and the tribunes stood,
Insulting marks, to show how high the flood
Of Freedom flow'd, in glory's by-gone day,
And how it ebb'd,—for ever ebb'd away![5]

Look but around—though yet a tyrant's sword
Nor haunts our sleep nor glitters o'er our board,
Though blood be better drawn, by modern quacks,
With Treasury leeches than with sword or axe;

suppling oil from the Treasury which has been found so necessary to make a government like that of England run smoothly. Had Charles been as well provided with this article as his successors have been since the happy Revolution, his Commons would never have merited from him the harsh appellation of "seditious vipers," but would have been (as they now are, and I trust always will be) "dutiful Commons," "loyal Commons," &c. &c., and would have given him ship-money, or any other sort of money he might have fancied.

[1] Among those auxiliaries which the Revolution of 1688 marshalled on the side of the Throne, the bugbear of Popery has not been the least convenient and serviceable. Those unskilful tyrants, Charles and James, instead of profiting by that useful subserviency which has always distinguished the ministers of our religious establishment, were so infatuated as to plan the ruin of this best bulwark of their power, and, moreover, connected their designs upon the Church so undisguisedly with their attacks upon the Constitution, that they identified in the minds of the people the interests of their religion and their liberties. During those times, therefore, "No Popery" was the watchword of freedom, and served to keep the public spirit awake against the invasions of bigotry and prerogative. The Revolution, however, by removing this object of jealousy, has produced a reliance on the orthodoxy of the Throne, of which the Throne has not failed to take advantage; and the cry of "No Popery" having thus lost its power of alarming the people against the inroads of the Crown, has served ever since the very different purpose of strengthening the Crown against the pretensions and struggles of the people. The danger of the Church from Papists and Pretenders was the chief pretext for the repeal of the Triennial Bill, for the adoption of a standing army, for the numerous suspensions of the Habeas Corpus Act, and, in short, for all those spirited infractions of the constitution by which the reigns of the last century were so eminently distinguished. We have seen very lately, too, how the Throne has been enabled, by the same scarecrow sort of alarm, to select its ministers from among men, whose servility is their only claim to elevation, and who are pledged (if such an alternative *could* arise) to take part with the scruples of the King against the salvation of the empire.

[2] Somebody has said, "Quand tous les poëtes seraient noyés, ce ne serait pas grand dommage;" but I am aware that this is not fit language to be held at a time when our birth-day odes and state-papers are written by such pretty poets as Mr. P—e and Mr. C—nn—ng. All I wish is, that the latter gentleman would change places with his brother P—e, by which means we should have somewhat less prose in our odes, and certainly less poetry in our politics.

[3] "It is a scandal (said Sir Charles Sedley in William's reign) that a government so sick at heart as ours is should look so well in the face;" and Edmund Burke has said, in the present reign, "When the people conceive that laws and tribunals, and even popular assemblies, are perverted from the ends of their institution, they find in these names of degenerated establishments only new motives to discontent. Those bodies which, when full of life and beauty, lay in their arms and were their joy and comfort, when dead and putrid become more loathsome from remembrance of former endearments."—*Thoughts on the present Discontents*, 1770.

[4] ——— Tutor haberi
Principis, Augustâ Caprearum in rupe sedentis
Cum grege Chaldæo. JUVENAL. *Sat.* x. v. 92.

The senate still continued, during the reign of Tiberius, to manage all the business of the public; the money was then and long after coined by their authority, and every other public affair received their sanction

We are told by Tacitus of a certain race of men, who made themselves particularly useful to the Roman emperors, and were therefore called "instrumenta regni," or "court tools." From this it appears, that my Lords M——, C——, &c. &c. are by no means things of modern invention.

[5] There is something very touching in what Tacitus tells us of the hopes that revived in a few patriot bosoms, when the death of Augustus was near approaching, and the fond expectation with which they already began "bona libertatis incassum disserere."

According to Ferguson, Cæsar's interference with the rights of election "made the subversion of the republic more felt than any of the former acts of his power."—*Roman Republic*, book v. chap. i.

Yet say, could even a prostrate tribune's power,
Or a mock senate, in Rome's servile hour,
Insult so much the claims, the rights of man,
As doth that fetter'd mob, that free divan,
Of noble tools and honourable knaves,
Of pension'd patriots and privileg'd slaves;—
That party-colour'd mass, which nought can warm
But rank corruption's heat—whose quicken'd swarm
Spread their light wings in Bribery's golden sky,
Buzz for a period, lay their eggs, and die;—
That greedy vampire, which from freedom's tomb
Comes forth, with all the mimicry of bloom
Upon its lifeless cheek, and sucks and drains
A people's blood to feed its putrid veins!

Thou start'st, my friend, at picture drawn so dark—
"Is there no light?" thou ask'st—"no ling'ring spark
"Of ancient fire to warm us? Lives there none,
"To act a Marvell's part?"[1]—alas! not one.
To place and power all public spirit tends,
In place and power all public spirit ends;[2]
Like hardy plants, that love the air and sky,
When *out*, 'twill thrive—but taken *in*, 'twill die!

Not bolder truths of sacred Freedom hung
From Sidney's pen or burn'd on Fox's tongue,
Than upstart Whigs produce each market night,
While yet their conscience, as their purse, is light;
While debts at home excite their care for those
Which, dire to tell, their much-lov'd country owes,
And loud and upright, till their prize be known,
They thwart the King's supplies to raise their own.
But bees, on flowers alighting, cease their hum—
So, settling upon places, Whigs grow dumb.
And, though most base is he who, 'neath the shade
Of Freedom's ensign plies corruption's trade,
And makes the sacred flag he dares to show
His passport to the market of her foe,
Yet, yet, I own, so venerably dear
Are Freedom's grave old anthems to my ear,
That I enjoy them, though by traitors sung,
And reverence Scripture even from Satan's tongue.
Nay, when the constitution has expir'd,
I'll have such men, like Irish wakers, hir'd
To chant old "Habeas Corpus" by its side,
And ask, in purchas'd ditties, why it died?

See yon smooth lord, whom nature's plastic pains
Would seem to've fashion'd for those Eastern reigns
When eunuchs flourish'd, and such nerveless things
As men rejected were the chosen of Kings;[3]—
Even *he*, forsooth, (oh fraud, of all the worst!)
Dar'd to assume the patriot's name at first—
Thus Pitt began, and thus begin his apes;
Thus devils, when *first* rais'd, take pleasing shapes.
But oh, poor Ireland! if revenge be sweet
For centuries of wrong, for dark deceit
And with'ring insult—for the Union thrown
Into thy bitter cup[4], when that alone
Of slavery's draught was wanting[5]—if for this
Revenge be sweet, thou *hast* that dæmon's bliss;
For, sure, 'tis more than hell's revenge to see
That England trusts the men who've ruin'd thee;—

[1] Andrew Marvell, the honest opposer of the court during the reign of Charles the Second, and the last member of parliament who, according to the ancient mode, took wages from his constituents. The Commons have, since then, much changed their pay-masters.—See the *State Poems* for some rude but spirited effusions of Andrew Marvell.

[2] The following artless speech of Sir Francis Winnington, in the reign of Charles the Second, will amuse those who are fully aware of the perfection we have since attained in that system of government whose humble beginnings so much astonished the worthy baronet. "I did observe (says he) that all those who had pensions, and most of those who had offices, voted all of a side, as they were directed by some great officer, exactly as if their business in this House had been to preserve their pensions and offices, and not to make laws for the good of them who sent them here."—He alludes to that parliament which was called, *par excellence*, the Pensionary Parliament.

[3] According to Xenophon, the chief circumstance which recommended these creatures to the service of Eastern princes was the ignominious station they held in society, and the probability of their being, upon this account, more devoted to the will and caprice of a master, from whose notice alone they derived consideration, and in whose favour they might seek refuge from the general contempt of mankind.—Αδοξοι ουτες οι ευνουχοι παρα τοις αλλοις ανθρωποις και δια τουτο δικαιοτατοι ιπικουρειν προσδοκωνται.—But I doubt whether even an Eastern prince would have chosen an entire administration upon this principle.

[4] "And in the cup an *Union* shall be thrown."
Hamlet.

[5] Among the many measures, which, since the Revolution, have contributed to increase the influence of the throne, and to feed up this "Aaron's serpent" of the constitution to its present health and respectable magnitude, there have been few more nutritive than the Scotch and Irish Unions. Sir John Packer said, in a debate upon the former question, that "he would submit it to the House, whether men who had basely betrayed their trust, by giving up their independent constitution, were fit to be admitted into the English House of Commons." But Sir John would have known, if he had not been out of place at the time, that the pliancy of such materials was not among the least of their recommendations. Indeed, the promoters of the Scotch Union were by no means disappointed in the leading object of their measure, for the triumphant majorities of the court-party in parliament may be dated from the admission of the 45 and the 16. Once or twice, upon the alteration of their law of treason and the imposition of the malt-tax (measures which were in direct violation of the Act of Union), these worthy North Britons arrayed themselves in opposition to the court; but finding this effort for their country unavailing, they prudently determined to think thenceforward of themselves, and few men

That, in these awful days, when every hour
Creates some new or blasts some ancient power,
When proud Napoleon, like th' enchanted shield[1]
Whose light compell'd each wond'ring foe to yield,
With baleful lustre blinds the brave and free,
And dazzles Europe into slavery,—
That, in this hour, when patriot zeal should guide,
When Mind should rule, and — Fox should *not* have died,
All that devoted England can oppose
To enemies made fiends and friends made foes,
Is the rank refuse, the despis'd remains
Of that unpitying power, whose whips and chains
Drove Ireland first to turn, with harlot glance,
Tow'rds other shores, and woo th' embrace of France;—
Those hack'd and tainted tools, so foully fit
For the grand artizan of mischief, P—tt,
So useless ever but in vile employ,
So weak to save, so vigorous to destroy—
Such are the men that guard thy threaten'd shore,
Oh England! sinking England![2] boast no more.

INTOLERANCE,

A SATIRE.

"This clamour, which pretends to be raised for the safety of religion, has almost worn out the very appearance of it, and rendered us not only the most divided but the most immoral people upon the face of the earth."

ADDISON, *Freeholder*, No. 37.

START not, my friend, nor think the muse will stain
Her classic fingers with the dust profane
Of Bulls, Decrees, and all those thund'ring scrolls,
Which took such freedom once with royal souls,[3]

have ever kept to a laudable resolution more firmly. The effect of Irish representation on the liberties of England will be no less perceptible and permanent.

—— Ουδ' ὁγε Ταυρων
Δεισηται αντελλοντος.[a]

The infusion of such cheap and useful ingredients as my Lord L., Mr. D. B., &c. &c. into the legislature, cannot but act as a powerful alterative on the constitution, and clear it by degrees of all troublesome humours of honesty.

[1] The magician's shield in Ariosto:

E tolto per vertù dello splendore
La libertate a loro. Cant. 2.

We are told that Cæsar's code of morality was contained in the following lines of Euripides, which that great man frequently repeated: —

Ειπερ γαρ αδικειν χρη τυραννιδος περι
Καλλιστον αδικειν· τἀλλα δ' ευσεβειν χρεων.

This is also, as it appears, the moral code of Napoleon.

[2] The following prophetic remarks occur in a letter written by Sir Robert Talbot, who attended the Duke of Bedford to Paris in 1762. Talking of states which have grown powerful in commerce, he says, "According to the nature and common course of things, there is a confederacy against them, and consequently in the same proportion as they increase in riches, they approach to destruction. The address of our King William, in making all Europe take the alarm at France, has brought that country before us near that inevitable period. We must necessarily have our turn, and Great Britain will attain it as soon as France shall have a declaimer with organs as proper for that political purpose as were those of our William the Third. . . . . Without doubt, my Lord, Great Britain must lower her flight. Europe will remind us of the balance of commerce, as she has reminded France of the balance of power. The address of our statesmen will immortalise them by contriving for us a descent which shall not be a fall, by making us rather resemble Holland than Carthage and Venice."— *Letters on the French Nation.*

[3] The king-deposing doctrine, notwithstanding its many mischievous absurdities, was of no little service to the cause of political liberty, by inculcating the right of resistance to tyrants, and asserting the will of the people to be the only true fountain of power. Bellarmine, the most violent of the advocates for papal authority, was one of the first to maintain (*De Pontiff.* lib. i. cap. 7.), "that kings have not their authority or office immediately from God nor his law, but only from the law of nations;" and in King James's "Defence of the Rights of Kings against Cardinal Perron," we find his Majesty expressing strong indignation against the Cardinal for having asserted "that to the deposing of a king the consent of the people must be obtained"— "for by these words (says James) the people are exalted above the king, and made the judges of the king's deposing," p. 424. — Even in Mariana's celebrated book, where the nonsense of bigotry does not interfere, there may be found many liberal and enlightened views of the principles of government, of the restraints which should be imposed upon royal power, of the subordination of the Throne to the interests of the people, &c. &c. (*De Rege et Regis Institutione.* See particularly lib. i. cap. 6. 8. and 9). — It is rather remarkable, too, that England should be indebted to another Jesuit for the earliest defence of that principle upon which the Revolution was founded, namely, the right of the people to change the succession. — (See Doleman's "Conferences," written in support of the title of the Infanta of Spain against that of James I.) — When Englishmen, therefore, say that Popery is the religion of slavery, they should not only recollect that their own boasted constitution is the work and bequest of popish ancestors; they should not only remember the laws of Edward III., "under whom (says Bolingbroke) the constitution of our parliaments, and the whole form of our government, became reduced into better form;" but they should know that even the errors charged on Popery have leaned to the cause of liberty, and that Papists were the first promulgators of the doctrines which led to the Revolution. — In general, however, the political principles of the Roman Catholics have been described as happened to suit the temporary convenience of their oppressors, and have been represented alternately as slavish or refractory, according as a pretext for tormenting them was wanting. The same inconsistency has marked every other imputation against them. They are charged with laxity in the observance of oaths, though an oath has been found sufficient to shut them out from all worldly advantages. If they reject certain decisions of their church, they are said to be sceptics and bad Christians; if they admit those very decisions, they are branded as bigots and bad sub-

[a] From Aratus (v. 715.), a poet who wrote upon astronomy, though, as Cicero assures us, he knew nothing whatever about the subject: just as the great Harvey wrote "De Generatione," though he had as little to do with the matter as my Lord Viscount C.

When heaven was yet the pope's exclusive trade,
And kings were *damn'd* as fast as now they're *made*.
No, no—let D—gen—n search the papal chair [1]
For fragrant treasures long forgotten there;
And, as the witch of sunless Lapland thinks
That little swarthy gnomes delight in stinks,
Let sallow P—rc—v—l snuff up the gale
Which wizard D—gen—n's gather'd sweets exhale.
Enough for me, whose heart has learn'd to scorn
Bigots alike in Rome or England born,
Who loathe the venom, whencesoe'er it springs,
From popes or lawyers [2], pastry-cooks or kings,—
Enough for me to laugh and weep by turns,
As mirth provokes, or indignation burns,
As C—nn—ng vapours, or as France succeeds,
As H—wk—sb'ry proses, or as Ireland bleeds!

And thou, my friend, if, in these headlong days,
When bigot Zeal her drunken antics plays
So near a precipice, that men the while
Look breathless on and shudder while they smile—
If, in such fearful days, thou'lt dare to look
To hapless Ireland, to this rankling nook
Which Heaven hath freed from poisonous things in vain,
While G—ff—rd's tongue and M—sgr—ve's pen remain—
If thou hast yet no golden blinkers got
To shade thine eyes from this devoted spot,
Whose wrongs, though blazon'd o'er the world they be,
Placemen alone are privileged *not* to see—

Oh! turn awhile, and, though the shamrock wreathes
My homely harp, yet shall the song it breathes
Of Ireland's slavery, and of Ireland's woes,
Live, when the memory of her tyrant foes
Shall but exist, all future knaves to warn,
Embalm'd in hate and canonised by scorn.
When C—stl—r—gh, in sleep still more profound
Than his own opiate tongue now deals around,
Shall wait th' impeachment of that awful day
Which even *his* practis'd hand can't bribe away.

Yes, my dear friend, wert thou but near me now,
To see how Spring lights up on Erin's brow
Smiles that shine out, unconquerably fair,
Even through the blood-marks left by C—md—n [3] there,—
Could'st thou but see what verdure paints the sod
Which none but tyrants and their slaves have trod,
And didst thou know the spirit, kind and brave,
That warms the soul of each insulted slave,
Who, tir'd with struggling, sinks beneath his lot,
And seems by all but watchful France forgot [4]—
Thy heart would burn—yes, even thy Pittite heart
Would burn, to think that such a blooming part
Of the world's garden, rich in nature's charms,
And fill'd with social souls and vigorous arms,
Should be the victim of that canting crew,
So smooth, so godly,—yet so devilish too;
Who, arm'd at once with prayer-books and with whips, [5]
Blood on their hands, and Scripture on their lips,

jects. We are told that confidence and kindness will make them enemies to the government, though we know that exclusion and injuries have hardly prevented them from being its friends. In short, nothing can better illustrate the misery of those shifts and evasions by which a long course of cowardly injustice must be supported, than the whole history of Great Britain's conduct towards the Catholic part of her empire.

[1] The "Sella *Stercoraria*" of the popes.—The Right Honourable and learned Doctor will find an engraving of this chair in Spanheim's "Disquisitio Historica de Papâ Fœminâ" (p. 118.); and I recommend it as a model for the fashion of that seat which the Doctor is about to take in the privy-council of Ireland.

[2] When Innocent X. was entreated to decide the controversy between the Jesuits and the Jansenists, he answered, that "he had been bred a lawyer, and had therefore nothing to do with divinity."—It were to be wished that some of our English pettifoggers knew their own fit element as well as Pope Innocent X.

[3] Not the C—md—n who speaks thus of Ireland:—

"To wind up all, whether we regard the fruitfulness of the soil, the advantage of the sea, with so many commodious havens, or the natives themselves, who are warlike, ingenious, handsome, and well-complexioned, soft-skinned and very nimble, by reason of the pliantness of their muscles, this Island is in many respects so happy, that Giraldus might very well say, 'Nature had regarded with more favourable eyes than ordinary this Kingdom of Zephyr.'"

[4] The example of toleration, which Bonaparte has held forth, will, I fear, produce no other effect than that of determining the British government to persist, from the very spirit of opposition, in their own old system of intolerance and injustice; just as the Siamese blacken their teeth, "because," as they say, "the devil has white ones." [a]

[5] One of the unhappy results of the controversy between Protestants and Catholics, is the mutual exposure which their criminations and recriminations have produced. In vain do the Protestants charge the Papists with closing the door of salvation upon others, while many of their own writings and articles breathe the same uncharitable spirit. No canon of Constance or Lateran ever damned heretics more effectually than the eighth of the Thirty-nine Articles consigns to perdition every single member of the Greek church; and I doubt whether a more sweeping clause of damnation was ever proposed in the most bigoted council, than that which the Calvinistic theory of predestination in the seventeenth of these Articles exhibits. It is true that no liberal Protestant avows such exclusive opinions; that every honest clergyman must feel a pang while he subscribes to them; that some even assert the Athanasian Creed to be the forgery of one Vigilius Tapsensis, in the beginning of the sixth century, and that eminent divines, like Jortin, have not hesitated to say, "There are propositions contained in our Liturgy and Articles, which no man of common sense amongst us believes." [b] But while all this is freely conceded to Protestants; while

[a] See l'Histoire Naturelle et Polit. du Royaume de Siam, &c.
[b] Strictures on the Articles, Subscriptions, &c.

Tyrants by creed, and torturers by text,
Make *this* life hell, in honour of the *next!*
Your R—desd—les, P—rc—v—ls,—great, glorious Heaven,
If I'm presumptuous, be my tongue forgiven,
When here I swear, by my soul's hope of rest,
I'd rather have been born, ere man was blest
With the pure dawn of Revelation's light,
Yes,—rather plunge me back in Pagan night,
And take my chance with Socrates for bliss,
Than be the Christian of a faith like this,
Which builds on heavenly cant its earthly sway,
And in a convert mourns to lose a prey;
Which grasping human hearts with double hold,—
Like Danäe's lover mixing god and gold,[2]—
Corrupts both state and church, and makes an oath
The knave and atheist's passport into both;
Which, while it dooms dissenting souls to know
Nor bliss above nor liberty below,
Adds the slave's suffering to the sinner's fear,
And, lest he 'scape hereafter, racks him here![3]

nobody doubts their sincerity, when they declare that their articles are not essentials of faith, but a collection of opinions which have been promulgated by fallible men, and from many of which they feel themselves justified in dissenting,—while so much liberty of retractation is allowed to Protestants upon their own declared and subscribed Articles of religion, is it not strange that a similar indulgence should be so obstinately refused to the Catholics, upon tenets which their church has uniformly resisted and condemned, in every country where it has independently flourished? When the Catholics say, "The Decree of the Council of Lateran, which you object to us, has no claim whatever upon either our faith or our reason; it did not even profess to contain any doctrinal decision, but was merely a judicial proceeding of that assembly; and it would be as fair for us to impute a *wife-killing* doctrine to the Protestants, because their first pope, Henry VIII., was sanctioned in an indulgence of that propensity, as for you to conclude that we have inherited a king-deposing taste from the *acts* of the Council of Lateran, or the secular pretensions of our popes. With respect, too, to the Decree of the Council of Constance, upon the strength of which you accuse us of breaking faith with heretics, we do not hesitate to pronounce that Decree a calumnious forgery, a forgery, too, so obvious and ill-fabricated, that none but our enemies have ever ventured to give it the slighest credit for authenticity."—When the Catholics make these declarations (and they are almost weary with making them), when they show, too, by their conduct, that these declarations are sincere, and that their faith and morals are no more regulated by the absurd decrees of old councils and popes, than their science is influenced by the papal anathema against that Irishman[a] who first found out the Antipodes,—is it not strange that so many still wilfully distrust what every good man is so much interested in believing? That so many should prefer the dark-lantern of the 13th century to the sunshine of intellect which has since overspread the world; and that every dabbler in theology, from Mr. Le Mesurier down to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, should dare to oppose the rubbish of Constance and Lateran to the bright and triumphant progress of justice, generosity, and truth?

[1] In a singular work, written by one Franciscus Collius, "upon the Souls of the Pagans," the author discusses, with much coolness and erudition, all the probable chances of salvation upon which a heathen philosopher might calculate. Consigning to perdition, without much difficulty, Plato, Socrates, &c., the only sage at whose fate he seems to hesitate is Pythagoras, in consideration of his golden thigh, and the many miracles which he performed. But, having balanced a little his claims, and finding reason to father all these miracles on the devil, he at length, in the twenty-fifth chapter, decides upon damning him also. (*De Animabus Paganorum*, lib. iv. cap. 20. and 25.)—The poet Dante compromises the matter with the Pagans, and gives them a neutral territory or limbo of their own, where their employment, it must be owned, is not very enviable—"Senza speme vivemo in desio."—Cant. iv.—Among the numerous errors imputed to Origen, he is accused of having denied the eternity of future punishment; and, if he never advanced a more irrational doctrine, we may venture, I think, to forgive him. He went so far, however, as to include the devil himself in the general hell-delivery which he supposed would one day or other take place, and in this St. Augustin thinks him rather too merciful—"Miserecordior profecto fuit Origenes, qui et ipsum diabolum," &c. (*De Civitat. Dei*, lib. xxi. cap. 17.)—According to St. Jerom, it was Origen's opinion, that "the devil himself, after a certain time, will be as well off as the angel Gabriel"—"Id ipsum fore Gabrielem quod diabolum." (See his *Epistle to Pammachius*.) But Halloix, in his Defence of Origen, denies strongly that his learned father had any such misplaced tenderness for the devil.

[2] Mr. Fox, in his Speech on the Repeal of the Test Act (1790), thus condemns the intermixture of religion with the political constitution of a state:—"What purpose (he asks) can it serve, except the baleful purpose of communicating and receiving contamination? Under such an alliance corruption must alight upon the one, and slavery overwhelm the other."

Locke, too, says of the connection between church and state, "The boundaries on both sides are fixed and immoveable. He jumbles heaven and earth together, the things most remote and opposite, who mixes these two societies, which are in their original, end, business, and in every thing, perfectly distinct and infinitely different from each other."—*First Letter on Toleration.*

The corruptions introduced into Christianity may be dated from the period of its establishment under Constantine, nor could all the splendour which it then acquired atone for the peace and purity which it lost.

[3] There has been, after all, quite as much intolerance among Protestants as among Papists. According to the hackneyed quotation—

Iliacos intra muros peccatur et extra.

Even the great champion of the Reformation, Melanchthon, whom Jortin calls "a divine of much mildness and *good-nature*," thus expresses his approbation of the burning of Servetus: "Legi (he says to Bullinger) quæ de Serveti blasphemiis respondistis, et pietatem ac judicia vestra probo. Judico etiam senatum Genevensem rectè fecisse, quod hominem pertinacem et non omissurum blasphemias sustulit; ac miratus sum esse qui severitatem illam improbent."—I have great pleasure in contrasting with these "mild and good-natured" sentiments the following words of the Papist Baluze, in addressing his friend Conringius: "Interim amemus, mi Conringi, et tametsi diversas opiniones tuemur in causâ religionis, moribus tamen diversi non simus, qui eadem literarum studia sectamur."—*Herman. Conring. Epistol.* par. secund. p. 56.

Hume tells us that the Commons, in the beginning of Charles the First's reign, "attacked Montague, one of the King's chaplains, on account of a moderate book which he had lately composed, and which, to their great disgust, saved

[a] Virgilius, surnamed Solivagus, a native of Ireland, who maintained, in the 8th century, the doctrine of the Antipodes, and was anathematised accordingly by the Pope. John Scotus Erigena, another Irishman, was the first that ever wrote against transubstantiation.

But no — far other faith, far milder beams
Of heavenly justice warm the Christian's dreams;
His creed is writ on Mercy's page above,
By the pure hands of all-atoning Love;
He weeps to see abus'd Religion twine
Round Tyranny's coarse brow her wreath divine;
And *he*, while round him sects and nations raise
To the one God their varying notes of praise,
Blesses each voice, whate'er its tone may be,
That serves to swell the general harmony.[1]

Such was the spirit, gently, grandly bright,
That fill'd, oh Fox! thy peaceful soul with light;
While free and spacious as that ambient air
Which folds our planet in its circling care,
The mighty sphere of thy transparent mind
Embrac'd the world, and breath'd for all mankind.
Last of the great, farewell! — yet *not* the last —
Though Britain's sunshine hour with thee be past,
Ierne still one ray of glory gives,
And feels but half thy loss while Grattan lives.

APPENDIX.

To the foregoing Poem, as first published, were subjoined, in the shape of a Note, or Appendix, the following remarks on the History and Music of Ireland. This fragment was originally intended to form part of a Preface to the Irish Melodies; but afterwards, for some reason which I do not now recollect, was thrown aside.

* * * * * *

Our history, for many centuries past, is creditable neither to our neighbours nor ourselves, and ought not to be read by any Irishman who wishes either to love England or to feel proud of Ireland. The loss of independence very early debased our character; and our feuds and rebellions, though frequent and ferocious, but seldom displayed that generous spirit of enterprise with which the pride of an independent monarchy so long dignified the struggles of Scotland. It is true this island has given birth to heroes who, under more favourable circumstances, might have left in the hearts of their countrymen recollections as dear as those of a Bruce or a Wallace; but success was wanting to consecrate resistance, their cause was branded with the disheartening name of treason, and their oppressed country was such a blank among nations, that, like the adventures of those woods which Rinaldo wished to explore, the fame of their actions was lost in the obscurity of the place where they achieved them.

> ——— Errando in quelli boschi
> Trovar potria strane avventure e molte,
> Ma come i luoghi i fatti ancor son foschi,
> Che non se n' ha notizia le più volte.[2]

Hence is it that the annals of Ireland, through a lapse of six hundred years, exhibit not one of those shining names, not one of those themes of national pride, from which poetry borrows her noblest inspiration; and that history, which ought

virtuous Catholics, as well as other Christians, from eternal torments." — In the same manner a complaint was lodged before the Lords of the Council against that excellent writer Hooker, for having, in a Sermon against Popery, attempted to save many of his Popish ancestors for *ignorance*. — To these examples of Protestant toleration I shall beg leave to oppose the following extract from a letter of old Roger Ascham (the tutor of Queen Elizabeth), which is preserved among the Harrington Papers, and was written in 1566, to the Earl of Leicester, complaining of the Archbishop Young, who had taken away his prebend in the church of York: "Master Bourne[a] did never grieve me half so moche in offering me wrong, as Mr. Dudley and the Byshopp of York doe, in taking away my right. No byshopp in Q. Mary's time would have so dealt with me: not Mr. Bourne hymself, when Winchester lived, durst have so dealt with me. For suche good estimation in those dayes even the learnedst and wysest men, as Gardener and Cardinal Poole, made of my poore service, that although they knewe perfectly that in religion, both by open wrytinge and pryvie talke, I was contrarye unto them; yea, when Sir Francis Englefield by name did note me speciallye at the councill-board, Gardener would not suffer me to be called thither, nor touched ellswheare, saiinge suche words of me in a lettre, as, though lettres cannot, I blushe to write them to your lordshipp. Winchester's good-will stoode not in speaking faire and wishing well, but he did in deede that for me[b] whereby my wife and children shall live the better when I am gone." (See *Nugæ Antiquæ*, vol. i. pp. 98, 99.) — If men who acted thus were bigots, what shall we call Mr. P—rc—v—l?

In Sutcliffe's "Survey of Popery" there occurs the following assertion: — "Papists, that positively hold the heretical and false doctrines of the modern church of Rome, cannot possibly be saved." — As a contrast to this and other specimens of Protestant liberality, which it would be much more easy than pleasant to collect, I refer my reader to the Declaration of Le Père Courayer; — doubting not that, while he reads the sentiments of this pious man upon toleration, he will feel inclined to exclaim with Belsham, "Blush, ye Protestant bigots! and be confounded at the comparison of your own wretched and malignant prejudices with the generous and enlarged ideas, the noble and animated language of this Popish priest." — *Essays*, xxvii. p. 86.

[1] "La tolérance est la chose du monde la plus propre à ramener le siècle d'or, et à faire un concert et une harmonie de plusieurs voix et instruments de différents tons et notes, aussi agréable pour le moins que l'uniformité d'une seule voix." *Bayle, Commentaire Philosophique*, &c. part ii. chap. vi. — Both Bayle and Locke would have treated the subject of Toleration in a manner much more worthy of themselves and of the cause, if they had written in an age less distracted by religious prejudices.

[2] Ariosto, canto iv.

[a] Sir John Bourne, Principal Secretary of State to Queen Mary.

[b] By Gardener's favour Ascham long held his fellowship, though not resident.

to be the richest garden of the Muse, yields no growth to her in this hapless island but cypress and weeds. In truth, the poet who would embellish his song with allusions to Irish names and events, must be contented to seek them in those early periods when our character was yet unalloyed and original, before the impolitic craft of our conquerors had divided, weakened, and disgraced us. The sole traits of heroism, indeed, which he can venture at this day to commemorate, either with safety to himself, or honour to his country, are to be looked for in those ancient times when the native monarchs of Ireland displayed and fostered virtues worthy of a better age; when our Malachies wore around their necks collars of gold which they had won in single combat from the invader [1], and our Briens deserved and won the warm affections of a people by exhibiting all the most estimable qualities of a king. It may be said that the magic of tradition has shed a charm over this remote period, to which it is in reality but little entitled, and that most of the pictures, which we dwell on so fondly, of days when this island was distinguished amidst the gloom of Europe, by the sanctity of her morals, the spirit of her knighthood, and the polish of her schools, are little more than the inventions of national partiality,—that bright but spurious offspring which vanity engenders upon ignorance, and with which the first records of every people abound. But the sceptic is scarcely to be envied who would pause for stronger proofs than we already possess of the early glories of Ireland; and were even the veracity of all these proofs surrendered, yet who would not fly to such flattering fictions from the sad degrading truths which the history of later times presents to us?

The language of sorrow, however, is, in general, best suited to our Music, and with themes of this nature the poet may be amply supplied. There is scarcely a page of our annals that will not furnish him a subject, and while the national Muse of other countries adorns her temple proudly with trophies of the past, in Ireland her melancholy altar, like the shrine of Pity at Athens, is to be known only by the tears that are shed upon it; "*laerymis altaria sudant.*" [2]

There is a well-known story, related of the Antiochians under the reign of Theodosius, which is not only honourable to the powers of music in general, but which applies so peculiarly to the mournful melodies of Ireland, that I cannot resist the temptation of introducing it here.—The piety of Theodosius, would have been admirable, had it not been stained with intolerance; but under his reign was, I believe, first set the example of a disqualifying penal code enacted by Christians against Christians.[3] Whether his interference with the religion of the Antiochians had any share in the alienation of their loyalty is not expressly ascertained by historians; but severe edicts, heavy taxation, and the rapacity and insolence of the men whom he sent to govern them, sufficiently account for the discontents of a warm and susceptible people. Repentance soon followed the crimes into which their impatience had hurried them; but the vengeance of the Emperor was implacable, and punishments of the most dreadful nature hung over the city of Antioch, whose devoted inhabitants, totally resigned to despondence, wandered through the streets and public assemblies, giving utterance to their grief in dirges of the most touching lamentation.[4] At length, Flavianus, their bishop, whom they had sent to intercede with Theodosius, finding all his entreaties coldly rejected, adopted the expedient of teaching these songs of sorrow which he had heard from the lips of his unfortunate countrymen to the minstrels who performed for the Emperor at table. The heart of Theodosius could not resist this appeal; tears fell fast into his cup while he listened, and the Antiochians were forgiven.—Surely, if music ever spoke the misfortunes of a people, or could ever conciliate forgiveness for their errors, the music of Ireland ought to possess those powers.

[1] See Warner's History of Ireland, vol. i. book ix.

[2] Statius, Thebaid. lib. xii.

[3] "A sort of civil excommunication (says Gibbon), which separated them from their fellow-citizens by a peculiar brand of infamy; and this declaration of the supreme magistrate tended to justify, or at least to excuse, the insults of a fanatic populace. The sectaries were gradually disqualified for the possession of honourable or lucrative employments, and Theodosius was satisfied with his own justice when he decreed, that, as the Eunomians distinguished the nature of the Son from that of the Father, they should be incapable of making their wills, or of receiving any advantage from testamentary donations."

[4] Μιλη τινα ολοφυρμου πλεκει και συμπαθειας συνθεμενοι, ταις μελωδιαις εκηδον.—*Nicephor.* lib. xii. cap. 43. This story is told also in Sozomen, lib. vii. cap. 23.; but unfortunately Chrysostom says nothing whatever about it, and he not only had the best opportunities of information, but was too fond of music, as appears by his praises of psalmody (Exposit. in Psalm xli.), to omit such a flattering illustration of its powers. He imputes their reconciliation to the interference of the Antiochian solitaries, while Zozimus attributes it to the remonstrances of the sophist Libanius.—Gibbon, I think, does not even allude to this story of the musicians.

THE SCEPTIC,

A PHILOSOPHICAL SATIRE.

Νομων παντων βασιλευς.
PINDAR. *ap. Herodot.* lib. iii.

PREFACE.

THE Sceptical Philosophy of the Ancients has been no less misrepresented than the Epicurean. Pyrrho may perhaps have carried it to rather an irrational excess;—but we must not believe, with Beattie, all the absurdities imputed to this philosopher; and it appears to me that the doctrines of the school, as explained by Sextus Empiricus[1], are far more suited to the wants and infirmities of human reason, as well as more conducive to the mild virtues of humility and patience, than any of those systems of philosophy which preceded the introduction of Christianity. The Sceptics may be said to have held a middle path between the Dogmatists and Academicians; the former of whom boasted that they had attained the truth, while the latter denied that any attainable truth existed. The Sceptics, however, without either asserting or denying its existence, professed to be modestly and anxiously in search of it; or, as St. Augustine expresses it, in his liberal tract against the Manichæans, "nemo nostrum dicat jam se invenisse veritatem; sic eam quæramus quasi ab utrisque nesciatur."[2] From this habit of impartial investigation, and the necessity which it imposed upon them, of studying not only every system of philosophy, but every art and science, which professed to lay its basis in truth, they necessarily took a wider range of erudition, and were far more travelled in the regions of philosophy than those whom conviction or bigotry had domesticated in any particular system. It required all the learning of dogmatism to overthrow the dogmatism of learning; and the Sceptics may be said to resemble in this respect, that ancient incendiary, who stole from the altar the fire with which he destroyed the temple. This advantage over all the other sects is allowed to them even by Lipsius, whose treatise on the miracles of the Virgo Hallensis will sufficiently save him from all suspicion of scepticism. "Labore, ingenio, memoria," he says, "supra omnes pene philosophos fuisse.—Quid nonne omnia aliorum secta tenere debuerunt et inquirere, si poterunt refellere? res dicit. Nonne orationes varias, raras, subtiles inveniri ad tam receptas, claras, certas (ut videbatur) sententias evertendas?" &c. &c.[3]—*Manuduct. ad Philosoph. Stoic.* Dissert. 4.

Between the scepticism of the ancients and the moderns the great difference is, that the former doubted for the purpose of investigating, as may be exemplified by the third book of Aristotle's Metaphysics[4], while the latter investigate for the purpose of doubting, as may be seen through most of the philosophical works of Hume.[5] Indeed, the Pyrrhonism of latter days is not only more subtle than that of antiquity, but, it must be confessed, more dangerous in its tendency. The happiness of a Christian depends so essentially upon his belief, that it is but natural he should feel alarm at the progress of doubt, lest it should steal by degrees into that region from which he is most interested in excluding it, and poison at last the very spring of his consolation and hope. Still, however, the abuses of doubting ought not to deter a philosophical mind from indulging mildly and rationally in its use; and there is nothing, surely, more consistent with the meek spirit of Christianity, than that humble scepticism which professes

[1] Pyrrh. Hypoth. — The reader may find a tolerably clear abstract of this work of Sextus Empiricus in La Vérité des Sciences, by Mersenne, liv. i. chap. ii. &c.

[2] Lib. contra Epist. Manichæi quam vocant Fundamenti, Op. Paris. tom. vi.

[3] See Martin. Schoockius de Scepticismo, who endeavours, —weakly, I think, — to refute this opinion of Lipsius.

[4] Εστι δε τοις ευπορησαι βουλομενοις πρεπον το διαπορησαι καλως. — *Metaphys.* lib. iii. cap. 1.

[5] Neither Hume, however, nor Berkeley, are to be judged by the misrepresentations of Beattie, whose book, however amiably intended, puts forth a most unphilosophical appeal to popular feelings and prejudices, and is a continued *petitio principii* throughout.

not to extend its distrust beyond the circle of human pursuits, and the pretensions of human knowledge. A follower of this school may be among the readiest to admit the claims of a superintending Intelligence upon his faith and adoration: it is only to the wisdom of this weak world that he refuses, or at least delays, his assent;—it is only in passing through the shadow of earth that his mind undergoes the eclipse of scepticism. No follower of Pyrrho has ever spoken more strongly against the dogmatists than St. Paul himself, in the First Epistle to the Corinthians; and there are passages in Ecclesiastes and other parts of Scripture, which justify our utmost diffidence in all that human reason originates. Even the Sceptics of antiquity refrained carefully from the mysteries of theology, and, in entering the temples of religion, laid aside their philosophy at the porch. Sextus Empericus thus declares the acquiescence of his sect in the general belief of a divine and fore-knowing Power: Τῳ μεν βιῳ κατακολουθουντες αδοξαστως φαμεν ειναι θεους, και σεβομεν θεους και προνοειν αυτους φαμεν.[1] In short, it appears to me, that this rational and well regulated scepticism is the only daughter of the Schools that can safely be selected as a handmaid for Piety. He who distrusts the light of reason, will be the first to follow a more luminous guide; and if, with an ardent love for truth, he has sought her in vain through the ways of this life, he will but turn with the more hope to that better world, where all is simple, true, and everlasting: for, there is no parallax at the zenith;—it is only near our troubled horizon that objects deceive us into vague and erroneous calculations.

[1] Lib. iii. cap. 1.

[2] "The particular bulk, number, figure, and motion of the parts of fire or snow are really in them, whether any one perceive them or not, and therefore they may be called real qualities, because they really exist in those bodies; but light, heat, whiteness, or coldness, are no more really in them than sickness or pain is in manna. Take away the sensation of them; let not the eye see light or colours, nor the ears hear sounds; let the palate not taste, nor the nose smell, and all colours, tastes, odours, and sounds, as they are such particular ideas, vanish and cease."—*Locke*, book ii. chap. 8.

Bishop Berkeley, it is well known, extended this doctrine even to primary qualities, and supposed that matter itself has but an ideal existence? But, how are we to apply his theory to that period which preceded the formation of man, when our system of sensible things was produced, and the sun shone, and the waters flowed, without any sentient being to witness them? The spectator, whom Whiston supplies, will scarcely solve the difficulty: "To speak my mind freely," says he, "I believe that the Messias was there actually present."—See *Whiston, of the Mosaic Creation.*

[3] Boetius employs this argument of the Sceptics among his consolatory reflections upon the emptiness of fame. "Quid quod diversarum gentium mores inter se atque instituta discordant, ut quod apud alios laude, apud alios supplicio dignum judicetur?"—Lib. ii. prosa 7. Many amusing instances of diversity, in the tastes, manners, and morals of different nations, may be found throughout the works of that amusing Sceptic, Le Mothe le Vayer.—See his Opuscule Sceptique, his Treatise "De la Secte Sceptique," and, above all, those Dialogues, not to be found in his works, which he published under the name of Horatius Tubero.—The chief objection to these writings of Le Vayer (and it is a blemish which may be felt also in the Esprit des Loix), is the suspicious obscurity of the sources from whence he frequently draws his instances, and the indiscriminate use made by him of the lowest populace of the library,—those lying travellers and wonder-mongers, of whom Shaftesbury, in his Advice to an Author, complains, as having tended in his own time to the diffusion of a very shallow and vicious sort of scepticism.—Vol. i. p. 352. The Pyrrhonism of Le Vayer, however, is of the most innocent and playful kind; and Villemandy, the author of Scepticismus Debellatus, exempts him specially in the declaration of war which he denounces against the other armed neutrals of the sect, in consideration of the orthodox limits within which he confines his incredulity.

[4] This was the creed also of those modern Epicureans, whom Ninon de l'Enclos collected around her in the Rue des Tournelles, and whose object seems to have been to decry the faculty of reason, as tending only to embarrass our wholesome use of pleasures, without enabling us, in any degree, to avoid their abuse. Madame des Houlières, the fair pupil of Des Barreaux in the arts of poetry and gallantry, has devoted most of her verses to this laudable purpose, and is even such a de-

THE SCEPTIC.

As the gay tint, that decks the vernal rose,[2]
Not in the flower, but in our vision glows;
As the ripe flavour of Falernian tides
Not in the wine, but in our taste resides;
So when, with heartfelt tribute, we declare
That Marco's honest and that Susan's fair,
'Tis in our minds, and not in Susan's eyes
Or Marco's life, the worth or beauty lies:
For she, in flat-nos'd China, would appear
As plain a thing as Lady Anne is here;
And one light joke at rich Loretto's dome
Would rank good Marco with the damn'd at Rome.

There's no deformity so vile, so base,
That 'tis not somewhere thought a charm, a grace;
No foul reproach, that may *not* steal a beam
From other suns, to bleach it to esteem.[3]
Ask, who is wise?—you'll find the self-same man
A sage in France, a madman in Japan;
And *here* some head beneath a mitre swells,
Which *there* had tingled to a cap and bells:
Nay, there may yet some monstrous region be,
Unknown to Cook, and from Napoleon free,
Where C—stl—r—gh would for a patriot pass,
And mouthing M——ve scarce be deem'd an ass!

"List not to reason (Epicurus cries),
"But trust the senses, *there* conviction lies:"[4]—
Alas! *they* judge not by a purer light,
Nor keep their fountains more unting'd and bright:

Habit so mars them, that the Russian swain
Will sigh for train-oil, while he sips champagne;
And health so rules them, that a fever's heat
Would make even Sh—r—d—n think water sweet.

Just as the mind the erring sense[1] believes,
The erring mind, in turn, the sense deceives;
And cold disgust can find but wrinkles there,
Where passion fancies all that's smooth and fair.
P * * * *, who sees, upon his pillow laid,
A face for which ten thousand pounds were paid,
Can tell, how quick before a jury flies
The spell that mock'd the warm seducer's eyes.

Self is the medium through which Judgment's ray
Can seldom pass without being turn'd astray.
The smith of Ephesus[2] thought Dian's shrine,
By which his craft most throve, the most divine;
And ev'n the *true* faith seems not half so true,
When link'd with *one* good living as with *two*.
Had W—lc—t first been pensioned by the throne,
Kings would have suffer'd by his praise alone;
And P—ine perhaps, for something snug per ann.,
Had laugh'd, like W—ll—sley, at all Rights of Man.

But 'tis not only individual minds,—
Whole nations, too, the same delusion blinds.
Thus England, hot from Denmark's smoking meads,
Turns up her eyes at Gallia's guilty deeds;
Thus, self-pleas'd still, the same dishonouring chain
She binds in Ireland, she would break in Spain;
While prais'd at distance, but at home forbid,
Rebels in Cork are patriots at Madrid.

If Grotius be thy guide, shut, shut the book,—
In force alone for Laws of Nations look.
Let shipless Danes and whining yankees dwell
On naval rights, with Grotius and Vattel,
While C—bb—t's pirate code alone appears
Sound moral sense to England and Algiers.

Woe to the Sceptic, in these party days,
Who wafts to neither shrine his puffs of praise!
For him no pension pours its annual fruits,
No fertile sinecure spontaneous shoots;
Not *his* the meed that crown'd Don H—kh—m's rhyme,
Nor sees he e'er, in dreams of future time,
Those shadowy forms of sleek reversions rise,
So dear to Scotchmen's second-sighted eyes.
Yet who, that looks to History's damning leaf,
Where Whig and Tory, thief oppos'd to thief,
On either side in lofty shame are seen,[3]
While Freedom's form hangs crucified between—
Who, B—rd—tt, who such rival rogues can see,
But flies from *both* to Honesty and thee?

If, weary of the world's bewild'ring maze,[4]
Hopeless of finding, through its weedy ways,

termined foe to reason, that, in one of her pastorals, she congratulates her sheep on the want of it. St. Evremont speaks thus upon the subject:—

"Un mélange incertain d'esprit et de matière
Nous fait vivre avec trop ou trop peu de lumière.
. . . . . .
Nature, élève-nous à la clarté des anges,
Ou nous abaisse au sens des simples animaux."

Which may be thus paraphrased:—

Had man been made, at nature's birth,
Of only flame or only earth,
Had he been form'd a perfect whole
Of pure, that, or grossly *this*,
Then sense would ne'er have clouded soul,
Nor soul restrain'd the sense's bliss.
Or had his light been strong,
Or had it never smar'd a light,
Were wit but wise enough to show he's wrong,
Or but enough to lead him right.

See among the fragments of Petronius, those verses beginning "Hunc nos oculi," &c. The most sceptical of the ancients was Euripides; and it would, I think, puzzle the whole school of Pyrrho to produce a doubt more startling than the following:—

Τις δ' οιδεν ει ζην τουθ' ὁ κεκληται Θανειν,
Το ζην δε Θνησκειν εστι.

See Laert. in Pyrrh.

Socrates and Plato were the grand sources of ancient scepticism. According to Cicero (de Orator. lib. iii.), they supplied Arcesilas with the doctrines of the Middle Academy; and how closely these resembled the tenets of the Sceptics, may be seen even in Sextus Empiricus (lib. i. cap. 33.), who, with all his distinctions, can scarcely prove any difference. It appears strange that Epicurus should have been a dogmatist; and his natural temper would most probably have led him to the repose of scepticism, had not the Stoics, by their violent opposition to his doctrines, compelled him to be as obstinate as themselves. Plutarch, indeed, in reporting some of his opinions, represents him as having delivered them with considerable hesitation.—Επικουρος ουδεν απογινωσκει τουτων, εχομενος του ενδεχομενου.—*De Placit. Philosoph.* lib. ii. cap. 13. See also the 21st and 22d chapters. But that the leading characteristics of the sect were self-sufficiency and dogmatism, appears from what Cicero says of Velleius, *De Natur. Deor.*—"Tum Velleius, fidenter sanè, ut solent isti, nihil tam verens quam ne dubitare aliquâ de re videretur."

[2] Acts, chap. xix. "For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen."

[3] "Those two thieves," says Ralph, "between whom the nation is crucified."—*Use and Abuse of Parliaments.*

[4] The agitation of the ship is one of the chief difficulties which impede the discovery of the longitude at sea; and the tumult and hurry of life are equally unfavourable to that calm level of mind which is necessary to an inquirer after truth.

In the mean time, our modest Sceptic, in the absence of truth, contents himself with probabilities, resembling in this respect those suitors of Penelope, who, on finding that they could not possess the mistress herself, very wisely resolved to put up with her maids; την Πηνελοπην πλησιαζειν μη δυναμενοι, ταις ταυτης εμιγνυντο Θεραπαινις.—*Plutarch*, Περι Παιδων Αγωγης.

One flower of truth, the busy crowd we shun,
And to the shades of tranquil learning run,
How many a doubt pursues![1] how oft we sigh,
When histories charm, to think that histories lie!
That all are grave romances, at the best,
And M—sgr—ve's[2] but more clumsy than the rest.
By Tory Hume's seductive page beguil'd,
We fancy Charles was just and Strafford mild;
And Fox himself, with party pencil, draws
Monmouth a hero, "for the good old cause!"[4]
Then, rights are wrongs, and victories are defeats,
As French or English pride the tale repeats;
And, when they tell Corunna's story o'er,
They'll disagree in all, but honouring Moore:
Nay, future pens, to flatter future courts,
May cite perhaps the Park-guns' gay reports,
To prove that England triumph'd on the morn
Which found her Junot's jest and Europe's scorn.

In Science, too—how many a system, rais'd
Like Neva's icy domes, awhile hath blaz'd
With lights of fancy and with forms of pride,
Then, melting, mingled with the oblivious tide!
Now Earth usurps the centre of the sky,
Now Newton puts the paltry planet by;
Now whims revive beneath Descartes's[5] pen,
Which *now*, assail'd by Locke's, expire again.

And when, perhaps, in pride of chemic powers,
We think the keys of Nature's kingdom ours,
Some Davy's magic touch the dream unsettles,
And turns at once our alkalis to metals.
Or, should we roam, in metaphysic maze,
Through fair-built theories of former days,
Some Dr—mm—d[6] from the north, more ably skill'd,
Like other Goths, to ruin than to build,
Tramples triumphant through our fanes o'erthrown,
Nor leaves one grace, one glory of his own.

Oh Learning, whatsoe'er thy pomp and boast,
*Un*letter'd minds have taught and charm'd men most.
The rude, unread Columbus was our guide
To worlds, which learn'd Lactantius had denied;
And one wild Shakspeare, following Nature's lights,
Is worth whole planets, fill'd with Stagyrites.

See grave Theology, when once she strays
From Revelation's path, what tricks she plays;
What various heav'ns,—all fit for bards to sing,—
Have churchmen dream'd, from Papias[7] down to King![8]
While hell itself, in India nought but smoke,[9]
In Spain's a furnace, and in France—a joke.

[1] See a curious work, entitled "Reflections upon Learning," written on the plan of Agrippa's "De Vanitate Scientiarum," but much more honestly and skilfully executed.

[2] This historian of the Irish rebellions has outrun even his predecessor in the same task, Sir John Temple, for whose character with respect to veracity the reader may consult Carte's "Collection of Ormond's Original Papers," p. 207. See also Dr. Nalson's account of him, in the introduction to the second volume of his "Historic. Collect."

[3] He defends Strafford's conduct as "innocent and even laudable." In the same spirit, speaking of the arbitrary sentences of the Star Chamber, he says,—"The severity of the Star Chamber, which was generally ascribed to Laud's passionate disposition, was perhaps, in itself, somewhat blameable."

[4] That flexibility of temper and opinion, which the habits of scepticism are so calculated to produce, are thus pleaded for by Mr. Fox, in the very sketch of Monmouth to which I allude; and this part of the picture the historian may be thought to have drawn from himself. "One of the most conspicuous features in his character seems to have been a remarkable, and, as some think, a culpable degree of flexibility. That such a disposition is preferable to its opposite extreme will be admitted by all, who think that modesty, even in excess, is more nearly allied to wisdom than conceit and self-sufficiency. He who has attentively considered the political, or indeed the general concerns of life, may possibly go still further, and may rank a willingness to be convinced, or, in some cases, even without conviction, to concede our own opinion to that of other men, among the principal ingredients in the composition of practical wisdom."—It is right to observe, however, that the Sceptic's readiness of concession arises rather from uncertainty than conviction, more from a suspicion that his own opinion may be wrong, than from any persuasion that the opinion of his adversary is right. "It may be so," was the courteous and sceptical formula, with which the Dutch were accustomed to reply to the statements of ambassadors. See *Lloyd's State Worthies*, art. Sir Thomas Wyat.

[5] Descartes, who is considered as the parent of modern scepticism, says, that there is nothing in the whole range of philosophy which does not admit of two opposite opinions, and which is not involved in doubt and uncertainty. "In Philosophia nihil adhuc reperiri, de quo non in utramque partem disputatur, hoc est, quod non *sit incertum et dubium*." Gassendi is likewise to be added to the list of modern Sceptics, and Wedderkopff, in his Dissertation "De Scepticismo profano et sacro" (Argentorat. 1666), has denounced Erasmus also as a follower of Pyrrho, for his opinions upon the Trinity, and some other subjects. To these if we add the names of Bayle, Mallebranche, Dryden, Locke, &c. &c., I think there is no one who need be ashamed of doubting in such company.

[6] See this gentleman's Academic Questions.

[7] Papias lived about the time of the apostles, and is supposed to have given birth to the heresy of the Chilliastæ, whose heaven was by no means of a spiritual nature, but rather an anticipation of the Prophet of Hera's elysium. See Eusebius, Hist. Ecclesiast. lib. iii. cap. 33., and Hieronym. de Scriptor. Ecclesiast.—From all I can find in these authors concerning Papias, it seems hardly fair to impute to him those gross imaginations in which the believers of the sensual millennium indulged.

[8] King, in his Morsels of Criticism, vol. i., supposes the sun to be the receptacle of blessed spirits.

[9] The Indians call hell "the House of Smoke." See Picart upon the Religion of the Banians. The reader who is curious about infernal matters, may be edified by consulting Rusca de Inferno, particularly lib. ii. cap. 7, 8., where he will find the precise sort of fire ascertained in which wicked spirits are to be burned hereafter.

Hail, modest Ignorance, thou goal and prize,
Thou last, best knowledge of the simply wise!
Hail, humble Doubt, when error's waves are past,
How sweet to reach thy shelter'd port[1] at last,
And, there, by changing skies nor lur'd nor awed,
Smile at the battling winds that roar abroad.
There gentle Charity, who knows how frail
The bark of Virtue, even in summer's gale,
Sits by the nightly fire, whose beacon glows
For all who wander, whether friends or foes.
There Faith retires, and keeps her white sail furl'd,
Till call'd to spread it for a better world;
While Patience, watching on the weedy shore,
And mutely waiting till the storm be o'er,
Oft turns to Hope, who still directs her eye
To some blue spot, just breaking in the sky!

Such are the mild, the blest associates given
To him who doubts,—and trusts in nought but Heaven!

TWOPENNY POST-BAG.

BY THOMAS BROWN, THE YOUNGER.

Elapsæ manibus cecidêre tabellæ. OVID.

TO

STEPHEN WOOLRICHE, ESQ.

MY DEAR WOOLRICHE,

IT is now about seven years since I promised (and I grieve to think it is almost as long since we met) to dedicate to you the very first Book, of whatever size or kind, I should publish. Who could have thought that so many years would elapse, without my giving the least signs of life upon the subject of this important promise? Who could have imagined that a volume of doggerel, after all, would be the first offering that Gratitude would lay upon the shrine of Friendship?

If you continue, however, to be as much interested about me and my pursuits as formerly, you will be happy to hear that doggerel is not my *only* occupation; but that I am preparing to throw my name to the Swans of the Temple of Immortality[2], leaving it, of course, to the said Swans to determine, whether they ever will take the trouble of picking it from the stream.

In the mean time, my dear Woolriche, like an orthodox Lutheran, you must judge of me rather by my *faith* than my *works*; and however trifling the tribute which I here offer, never doubt the fidelity with which I am, and always shall be,

Your sincere and
attached Friend,
THE AUTHOR.

March 4. 1813

PREFACE.

THE Bag, from which the following Letters are selected, was dropped by a Twopenny Postman about two months since, and picked up by an emissary of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, who, supposing it might materially assist the private researches of that Institution, immediately took it to his employers, and was rewarded handsomely for his trouble. Such a treasury of secrets was worth a whole host of informers; and accordingly, like the Cupids of the poet (if I may use so profane a simile) who "fell at odds about the sweet-bag of a bee[3]," those venerable Suppressors almost fought with each other for the honour and delight of first ransacking the Post-

[1] "Chère Sceptique, douce pâture de mon ame, et l'unique port de salut à une esprit qui aime le repos!"—*La Mothe le Vayer.*

[2] Ariosto, canto 35.

[3] Herrick.

Bag. Unluckily, however, it turned out, upon examination, that the discoveries of profligacy which it enabled them to make, lay chiefly in those upper regions of society, which their well-bred regulations forbid them to molest or meddle with. —In consequence, they gained but very few victims by their prize, and, after lying for a week or two under Mr. Hatchard's counter, the Bag, with its violated contents, was sold for a trifle to a friend of mine.

It happened that I had been just then seized with an ambition (having never tried the strength of my wing but in a Newspaper) to publish something or other in the shape of a Book; and it occurred to me that, the present being such a letter-writing era, a few of these Twopenny-Post Epistles, turned into easy verse, would be as light and popular a task as I could possibly select for a commencement. I did not, however, think it prudent to give too many Letters at first, and, accordingly have been obliged (in order to eke out a sufficient number of pages) to reprint some of those trifles, which had already appeared in the public journals. As in the battles of ancient times, the shades of the departed were sometimes seen among the combatants, so I thought I might manage to remedy the thinness of my ranks by conjuring up a few dead and forgotten ephemerons to fill them.

Such are the motives and accidents that led to the present publication; and as this is the first time my Muse has ever ventured out of the go-cart of a Newspaper, though I feel all a parent's delight at seeing little Miss go alone, I am also not without a parent's anxiety, lest an unlucky fall should be the consequence of the experiment; and I need not point out how many living instances might be found, of Muses that have suffered very severely in their heads, from taking rather too early and rashly to their feet. Besides, a Book is so very different a thing from a Newspaper!—in the former, your doggerel, without either company or shelter, must stand shivering in the middle of a bleak page by itself; whereas, in the latter, it is comfortably backed by advertisements, and has sometimes even a Speech of Mr. St—ph—n's, or something equally warm, for a *chaûffe-pié*—so that, in general, the very reverse of "laudatur et alget" is its destiny.

Ambition, however, must run some risks, and I shall be very well satisfied if the reception of these few Letters should have the effect of sending me to the Post-Bag for more.

[1] Pindar, Pyth. 2.—My friend certainly cannot add *ουτ' εν ανδρασι γεραιτερον*.

PREFACE

TO THE FOURTEENTH EDITION.

BY A FRIEND OF THE AUTHOR.

In the absence of Mr. Brown, who is at present on a tour through ———, I feel myself called upon, as his friend, to notice certain misconceptions and misrepresentations, to which this little volume of Trifles has given rise.

In the first place, it is not true that Mr. Brown has had any accomplices in the work. A note, indeed, which has hitherto accompanied his Preface, may very naturally have been the origin of such a supposition; but that note, which was merely the coquetry of an author, I have, in the present edition, taken upon myself to remove, and Mr. Brown must therefore be considered (like the mother of that unique production, the Centaur, *μονα και μονον*[1]) as alone responsible for the whole contents of the volume.

In the next place it has been said, that in consequence of this graceless little book, a certain distinguished Personage prevailed upon another distinguished Personage to withdraw from the author that notice and kindness with which he had so long and so liberally honoured him. In this story there is not one syllable of truth. For the magnanimity of the *former* of these persons I would, indeed, in no case answer too rashly: but of the conduct of the *latter* towards my friend, I have a proud gratification in declaring, that it has never ceased to be such as he must remember with indelible gratitude;—a gratitude the more cheerfully and warmly paid, from its not being a debt incurred solely on his own account, but for kindness shared with those nearest and dearest to him.

To the charge of being an Irishman, poor Mr. Brown pleads guilty; and I believe it must also be acknowledged that he comes of a Roman Catholic family: an avowal which I am aware is decisive of his utter reprobation, in the eyes of those exclusive patentees of Christianity, so worthy to have been the followers of a certain enlightened Bishop, Donatus[2], who held "that God is in Africa *and not elsewhere*." But from all this it does not necessarily follow that Mr. Brown is a Papist; and, indeed, I have the strongest reasons for suspecting that they, who say so, are somewhat mistaken. Not that I presume to have ascertained his opinions upon such subjects. All I profess to know of his orthodoxy is, that he has a Protestant wife and

[2] Bishop of Casæ Nigræ, in the fourth century.

two or three little Protestant children, and that he has been seen at church every Sunday, for a whole year together, listening to the sermons of his truly reverend and amiable friend, Dr.————, and behaving there as well and as orderly as most people.

There are yet a few other mistakes and falsehoods about Mr. Brown, to which I had intended, with all becoming gravity, to advert; but I begin to think the task is quite as useless as it is tiresome. Misrepresentations and calumnies of this sort are, like the arguments and statements of Dr. Duigenan, —not at all the less vivacious or less serviceable to their fabricators, for having been refuted and disproved a thousand times over. They are brought forward again, as good as new, whenever malice or stupidity may be in want of them; and are quite as useful as the old broken lantern, in Fielding's Amelia, which the watchman always keeps ready by him, to produce, in proof of riotous conduct, against his victims. I shall therefore give up the fruitless toil of vindication, and would even draw my pen over what I have already written, had I not promised to furnish my publisher with a Preface, and know not how else I could contrive to eke it out.

I have added two or three more trifles to this edition, which I found in the Morning Chronicle, and knew to be from the pen of my friend. The rest of the volume remains[1] in its original state.

April 20. 1814.

INTERCEPTED LETTERS,

&c.

LETTER I.

FROM THE PR—NC—SS CH—RL—E OF W—L—S TO THE LADY B—RB—A ASHL—Y.[2]

My dear Lady Bab, you'll be shock'd, I'm afraid,
When you hear the sad rumpus your Ponies have made;
Since the time of horse-consuls (now long out of date),
No nags ever made such a stir in the state.
Lord Eld—n first heard—and as instantly pray'd he
To "God and his King"—that a Popish young Lady
(For though you've bright eyes and twelve thousand a year,
It is still but too true you're a Papist, my dear,)
Had insidiously sent, by a tall Irish groom,
Two priest-ridden Ponies, just landed from Rome,
And so full, little rogues, of pontifical tricks,
That the dome of St. Paul's was scarce safe from their kicks.

Off at once to Papa, in a flurry he flies—
For Papa always does what these statesmen advise,
On condition that they'll be, in turn, so polite
As in no case whate'er to advise him *too right*—
"Pretty doings are here, Sir, (he angrily cries,
While by dint of dark eyebrows he strives to look wise)—
"'Tis a scheme of the Romanists, so help me God!
"To ride over your *most* Royal Highness rough-shod—
"Excuse, Sir, my tears—they're from loyalty's source—
"Bad enough 'twas for Troy to be sack'd by a *Horse*,
"But for us to be ruin'd by *Ponies* still worse!"
Quick a Council is call'd—the whole Cabinet sits—
The Archbishops declare, frighten'd out of their wits,
That if once Popish Ponies should eat at my manger,
From that awful moment the Church is in danger!
As, give them but stabling, and shortly no stalls
Will suit their proud stomachs but those at St. Paul's.

The Doctor[3], and he, the devout man of Leather[4],
V—ns—tt—t, now laying their Saint-heads together,
Declare that these skittish young *a*-bominations
Are clearly foretold in Chap. vi. Revelations—
Nay, they verily think they could point out the one
Which the Doctor's friend Death was to canter upon.
Lord H—rr—by, hoping that no one imputes
To the Court any fancy to persecute brutes,
Protests, on the word of himself and his cronies,
That had these said creatures been Asses, not Ponies,
The Court would have started no sort of objection,
As Asses were, *there*, always sure of protection.

[1] A new reading has been suggested in the original of the Ode of Horace, freely translated by Lord Eld—n, page 166. In the line "Sive per Syrteis iter æstuosas," it is proposed, by a very trifling alteration, to read "*Surtees*," instead "Syrteis," which brings the Ode, it is said, more home to the noble translator, and gives a peculiar force and aptness to the epithet "æstuosas." I merely throw out this emendation for the learned, being unable myself to decide upon its merits.

[2] This young Lady, who is a Roman Catholic, had lately made a present of some beautiful Ponies to the Pr—nc—ss.

[3] Mr. Addington, *so* nicknamed.

[4] Alluding to a tax lately laid upon leather.

" If the Pr—nc—ss *will* keep them (says Lord
C—stl—r—gh),
" To make them quite harmless, the only true way
" Is (as certain Chief Justices do with their wives)
" To flog them within half an inch of their lives.
" If they've any bad Irish blood lurking about,
" This (he knew by experience) would soon draw
it out."
Should this be thought cruel, his Lordship proposes
" The new *Veto* snaffle [1] to bind down their noses—
" A pretty contrivance, made out of old chains,
" Which appears to indulge, while it doubly restrains;
" Which, however high-mettled, their gamesomeness checks
" (Adds his Lordship humanely), or else breaks their necks!"

This proposal receiv'd pretty general applause
From the statesmen around—and the neck-breaking clause
Had a vigour about it, which soon reconcil'd
Even Eld—n himself to a measure so mild.
So the snaffles, my dear, were agreed to, *nem. con.*,
And my Lord C—stl—r—gh, having so often shone
In the *fettering* line, is to buckle them on.

I shall drive to your door in these *Vetos* some day,
But, at present, adieu!—I must hurry away
To go see my Mamma, as I'm suffer'd to meet her
For just half an hour by the Qu—n's best repeater.

CH—RL—TTE.

LETTER II.

FROM COLONEL M'M—H—N TO G—LD FR—NC—S L—CKIE, ESQ.

DEAR Sir, I've just had time to look
Into your very learned Book,[2]
Wherein—as plain as man can speak,
Whose English is half modern Greek—
You prove that we can ne'er intrench
Our happy isles against the French,
Till Royalty in England's made
A much more independent trade;—
In short, until the House of Guelph
Lays Lords and Commons on the shelf,
And boldly sets up for itself.

All, that can well be understood
In this said Book, is vastly good;
And, as to what's incomprehensible,
I dare be sworn 'tis full as sensible.

But, to your work's immortal credit,
The Pr—n—e, good Sir, the Pr—n—e has read it
(The only Book, himself remarks,
Which he has read since Mrs. Clarke's).
Last levee-morn he look'd it through,
During that awful hour or two
Of grave tonsorial preparation,
Which, to a fond, admiring nation,
Sends forth, announc'd by trump and drum,
The best-wigg'd Pr—n—e in Christendom.

He thinks with you, th' imagination
Of *partnership* in legislation
Could only enter in the noddles
Of dull and ledger-keeping twaddles,
Whose heads on *firms* are running so,
They ev'n must have a King and Co.,
And hence, most eloquently show forth
On *checks* and *balances*, and so forth.

But now, he trusts, we're coming near a
Far more royal, loyal era;
When England's monarch need but say,
" Whip me those scoundrels, C—stl—r—gh!"
Or, " Hang me up those Papists, Eld—n,"
And 'twill be done—ay, faith, and well done.

With view to which, I've his command
To beg, Sir, from your travell'd hand,
(Round which the foreign graces swarm)[3]
A Plan of radical Reform;
Compil'd and chos'n as best you can,
In Turkey or at Ispahan,
And quite upturning, branch and root,
Lords, Commons, and Burdett to boot.

But, pray, whate'er you may impart, write
Somewhat more brief than Major C—rtwr—ght:
Else, though the Pr——e be long in rigging,
'Twould take, at least, a fortnight's wigging,—
Two wigs to every paragraph—
Before he well could get through half.

[1] The question whether a Veto was to be allowed to the Crown in the appointment of Irish Catholic Bishops was, at this time, very generally and actively agitated.

[2] For an account of this extraordinary work of Mr. Leckie, see the "Edinburgh Review," vol. xx.

[3] "The truth indeed seems to be, that having lived so long abroad as evidently to have lost, in a great degree, the use of his native language, Mr. Leckie has gradually come not only to speak, but to feel, like a foreigner." *Edinburgh Review.*

You'll send it also speedily—
As, truth to say, 'twixt you and me,
His Highness, heated by your work,
Already thinks himself Grand Turk!
And you'd have laugh'd, had you seen how
He scar'd the Ch—nc—ll—r just now,
When (on his Lordship's entering puff'd) he
Slapp'd his back and call'd him Mufti!"

The tailors too have got commands,
To put directly into hands
All sorts of Dulimans and Pouches,
With Sashes, Turbans, and Paboutches,
(While Y—rm—th's sketching out a plan
Of new *Moustaches à l'Ottomane*)
And all things fitting and expedient
To *turkify* our gracious R—g—nt!

You, therefore, have no time to waste—
So, send your System.—
Yours, in haste.

POSTSCRIPT.

Before I send this scrawl away,
I seize a moment, just to say,
There's some parts of the Turkish system
So vulgar, 'twere as well you miss'd 'em.
For instance—in *Seraglio* matters—
Your Turk, whom girlish fondness flatters,
Would fill his Haram (tasteless fool!)
With tittering, red-cheek'd things from school.
But *here* (as in that fairy land,
Where Love and Age went hand in hand;[1]
Where lips, till sixty, shed no honey,
And Grandams were worth any money,)
Our Sultan has much riper notions—
So, let your list of *she*-promotions
Include those only, plump and sage,
Who've reach'd the *regulation*-age;
That is, (as near as one can fix
From Peerage dates) full fifty-six.

This rule's for *fav'rites*—nothing more—
For, as to *wives*, a Grand Signor,
Though not decidedly *without* them,
Need never care one curse about them.

[1] The learned Colonel must allude here to a description of the Mysterious Isle, in the History of Abdalla, Son of Hanif, where such inversions of the order of nature are said to have taken place.—"A score of old women and the same number of old men played here and there in the court, some at chuck-farthing, others at tip-cat or at cockles."—And again, "There is nothing, believe me, more engaging than those lovely wrinkles," &c. &c.—See *Tales of the East*, vol. iii. pp. 607, 608.

LETTER III.

FROM G—GE PR—CE R—G—T TO THE E—— OF Y———TH.[2]

We miss'd you last night at the "hoary old sinner's,"
Who gave us, as usual, the cream of good dinners;
His soups scientific—his fishes quite *prime*—
His pâtés superb—and his cutlets sublime!
In short, 'twas the snug sort of dinner to stir a
Stomachic orgasm in my Lord El—b—gh,
Who *set to*, to be sure, with miraculous force,
And exclaim'd, between mouthfuls, "a *He*-Cook of course!—
"While you live—(what's there under that cover? pray, look)—
"While you live—(I'll just taste it) ne'er keep a She-Cook.
"'Tis a sound Salic Law—(a small bit of that toast)—
"Which ordains that a female shall ne'er rule the roast;
"For Cookery's a secret—(this turtle's uncommon)—
"Like Masonry, never found out by a woman!"

The dinner, you know, was in gay celebration
Of *my* brilliant triumph and H—nt's condemnation;
A compliment, too, to his Lordship the Judge
For his Speech to the Jury—and zounds! who would grudge
Turtle soup, though it came to five guineas a bowl,
To reward such a loyal and complaisant soul?
We were all in high gig—Roman Punch and Tokay
Travell'd round, till our heads travell'd just the same way;
And we car'd not for Juries or Libels—no—damme! nor
Ev'n for the threats of last Sunday's Examiner!

More good things were eaten than said—but Tom T—rrh—t
In quoting Joe Miller, you know, has some merit;
And, hearing the sturdy Justiciary Chief
Say—sated with turtle—"I'll now try the beef"—

[2] This letter, as the reader will perceive, was written the day after a dinner given by the M—rq—s of H—d—t.

Tommy whisper'd him (giving his Lordship a sly hit)
"I fear 'twill be *hung*-beef, my Lord, if YOU *try* it!"

And C—md—n was there, who, that morning, had gone
To fit his new Marquis's coronet on;
And the dish set before him—oh dish well-devis'd!—
Was, what old Mother Glasse calls, "a calf's head surpris'd!"
The *brains* were near Sh—ry, and *once* had been fine,
But, of late, they had lain so long soaking in wine,
That, though we, from courtesy, still chose to call
These brains very fine, they were no brains at all.

When the dinner was over, we drank every one
In a bumper, "the venial delights of Crim. Con.;"
At which H—df—t with warm reminiscences gloated,
And E—b'r—h chuckled to hear himself *quoted*.

Our next round of toasts was a fancy quite new,
For we drank—and you'll own 'twas benevolent too—
To those well-meaning husbands, cits, parsons, or peers,
Whom we've, any time, honour'd by courting their dears:
This museum of wittols was comical rather;
Old H—df—t gave M—ss—y, and I gave your f—th—r.

In short, not a soul till this morning would budge—
We were all fun and frolic,—and even the J——e
Laid aside, for the time, his juridical fashion,
And through the whole night wasn't *once* in a passion!

I write this in bed, while my whiskers are airing,
And M—c[1] has a sly dose of jalap preparing
For poor T—mmy T—rr—t at breakfast to quaff—
As I feel I want something to give me a laugh,
And there's nothing so good as old T—mmy, kept close
To his Cornwall accounts, after taking a dose.

LETTER IV.

FROM THE RIGHT HON. P—TR—CK D—GEN—N
TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR J—HN N—CH—L.

Dublin.[2]

LAST week, dear N—ch—l, making merry
At dinner with our Secretary,
When all were drunk, or pretty near
(The time for doing business here),
Says he to me, "Sweet Bully Bottom!
"These Papist dogs—hiccup—'od rot 'em!—
"Deserve to be bespatter'd—hiccup—
"With all the dirt ev'n *you* can pick up.
"But, as the Pr—ce (here's to him—fill—
"Hip, hip, hurra!)—is trying still
"To humbug them with kind professions,
"And, as *you* deal in *strong* expressions—
"*Rogue*"—"*traitor*" hiccup—and all that—
"You must be muzzled, Doctor Pat!—
"You must indeed—hiccup—that's flat."—

Yes—"muzzled" was the word, Sir John—
These fools have clapp'd a muzzle on
The boldest mouth that e'er ran o'er
With slaver of the times of yore![3]—
Was it for this that back I went
As far as Lateran and Trent,
To prove that they, who damn'd us then,
Ought now, in turn, be damn'd again?—
The silent victim *still to sit*
Of Gr—tt—n's fire and C—nn—g's wit,
To hear ev'n noisy M—th—w gabble on,
Nor mention once the W—e of Babylon!
Oh! 'tis too much—who now will be
The Nightman of No-Popery?
What Courtier, Saint, or even Bishop,
Such learned filth will ever fish up?
If there among our ranks be one
To take my place, 'tis *thou*, Sir John;
Thou, who, like me, art dubb'd Right Hon.
Like me too, art a Lawyer Civil
That wishes Papists at the devil.

To whom then but to *thee*, my friend,
Should Patrick[4] his Port-folio send?
Take it—'tis thine—his learn'd Port-folio,
With all its theologic olio
Of Bulls, half Irish and half Roman—
Of Doctrines, now believ'd by no man—

[1] Colonel M'Mahon.

[2] This letter, which contained some very heavy enclosures, seems to have been sent to London by a private hand, and then put into the Twopenny Post-Office, to save trouble. See the Appendix.

[3] In sending this sheet to the Press, however, I learn that the "muzzle" has been taken off, and the Right Hon. Doctor again let loose!

[4] A bad name for poetry; but D—gen—n is still worse.—As Prudentius says upon a very different subject—

Torquetur Apollo
Nomine percussus.

Of Councils, held for men's salvation,
Yet always ending in damnation—
(Which shows that, since the world's creation,
Your Priests, whate'er their gentle shamming,
Have always had a taste for damning,)
And many more such pious scraps,
To prove (what *we've* long prov'd, perhaps,)
That, mad as Christians us'd to be
About the Thirteenth Century,
There still are Christians to be had
In this, the Nineteenth, just as mad!

Farewell—I send with this, dear N—ch—l,
A rod or two I've had in pickle
Wherewith to trim old Gr—tt—n's jacket.—
The rest shall go by Monday's packet.

P. D.

Among the Enclosures in the foregoing Letter was the following "Unanswerable Argument against the Papists."

* * * *

We're told the ancient Roman nation
Made use of spittle in lustration;[1]
(*Vide* Lactantium ap. Gallæum—[2]
i. e. you need not *read* but *see* 'em;)
Now, Irish Papists, fact surprising,
Make use of spittle in baptizing;
Which proves them all, O'Finns, O'Fagans,
Connors, and Tooles, all downright Pagans.
This fact's enough;—let no one tell us
To free such sad, *salivous* fellows.—
No, no—the man, baptiz'd with spittle,
Hath no truth in him—not a tittle!

* * * *

LETTER V.

FROM THE COUNTESS DOWAGER OF C—RK TO LADY ———.

My dear Lady———! I've been just sending out
About five hundred cards for a snug little Rout—
(By the bye, you've seen Rokeby?—this moment got mine—
The Mail-Coach Edition[3]—prodigiously fine;)
But I can't conceive how, in this very cold weather,
I'm ever to bring my five hundred together;
As, unless the thermometer's near boiling heat,
One can never get half of one's hundreds to meet.
(Apropos—you'd have laugh'd to see Townsend last night,
Escort to their chairs, with his staff, so polite,
The "three maiden Miseries," all in a fright;
Poor Townsend, like Mercury, filling two posts,
Supervisor of *thieves*, and chief-usher of *ghosts!*)

But, my dear Lady———, can't you hit on some notion,
At least for one night to set London in motion?—
As to having the R—g—nt, *that* show is gone by—
Besides, I've remark'd that (between you and I)
The Marchesa and he, inconvenient in more ways,
Have taken much lately to whispering in doorways;
Which—consid'ring, you know, dear, the *size* of the two—
Makes a block that one's company *cannot* get through;
And a house such as mine is, with doorways so small,
Has no room for such cumbersome love-work at all.—
(Apropos, though, of love-work—you've heard it, I hope,
That Napoleon's old mother's to marry the Pope,—
What a comical pair!)—but, to stick to my Rout,
'Twill be hard if some novelty can't be struck out.
Is there no Algerine, no Kamchatkan arriv'd?
No Plenipo Pacha, three-tail'd and ten-wiv'd?
No Russian, whose dissonant consonant name
Almost rattles to fragments the trumpet of fame?

I remember the time, three or four winters back,
When—provided their wigs were but decently black—
A few Patriot monsters, from Spain, were a sight
That would people one's house for one, night after night.
But—whether the Ministers *paw'd* them too much—
(And you know how they spoil whatsoever they touch)
Or, whether Lord G—rge (the young man about town)
Has, by dint of bad poetry, written them down,
One has certainly lost one's *peninsular* rage;
And the only stray Patriot seen for an age

---

1 ——— Lustralibus antè salivis
Expiat. PERS. sat. 2.

2 I have taken the trouble of examining the Doctor's reference here, and find him, for once, correct. The following are the words of his indignant referee, Gallæus:—"Asserere non veremur sacrum baptismum a Papistis profanari, et sputi usum in peccatorum expiatione a Paganis non a Christianis *manâsse*."

3 See Mr. Murray's Advertisement about the Mail-Coach copies of Rokeby.

Has been at such places (think, how the fit cools!)
As old Mrs. V—gh—n's or Lord L—v—rp—l's.

But, in short, my dear, names like Wintztschit-
stopschinzoudhoff
Are the only things now make an ev'ning go
smooth off:
So, get me a Russian — till death I'm your debtor —
If he brings the whole Alphabet, so much the bet-
ter.
And — Lord! if he would but, *in character*, sup
Off his fish-oil and candles, he'd quite set me up!

Au revoir, my sweet girl — I must leave you in
haste —
Little Gunter has brought me the Liqueurs to taste.

POSTSCRIPT.

By the bye, have you found any friend that can
construe
That Latin account, t'other day, of a Monster?[1]
If we can't get a Russian, and *that thing* in Latin
Be not *too* improper, I think I'll bring that in.

LETTER VI.

FROM ABDALLAH[2], IN LONDON, TO MOHASSAN, IN ISPAHAN.

Whilst thou, Mohassan, (happy thou!)
Dost daily bend thy loyal brow
Before our King — our Asia's treasure!
Nutmeg of Comfort; Rose of Pleasure! —
And bear'st as many kicks and bruises
As the said Rose and Nutmeg chooses;
Thy head still near the bowstring's borders,
And but left on till further orders —
Through London streets with turban fair,
And caftan, floating to the air,
I saunter on, the admiration
Of this short-coated population —
This sew'd up race — this button'd nation —
Who, while they boast their laws so free,
Leave not one limb at liberty,
But live, with all their lordly speeches,
The slaves of buttons and tight breeches.

Yet, though they thus their knee-pans fetter
(They're Christians, and they know no better)[3]
In *some* things they're a thinking nation;
And, on Religious Toleration,
I own I like their notions *quite*,
They are so Persian and so right!
You know our Sunnites[4], — hateful dogs!
Whom every pious Shiite flogs
Or longs to flog[5] — 'tis true, they pray
To God, but in an ill-bred way;
With neither arms, nor legs, nor faces
Stuck in their right, canonic places.[6]
'Tis true, they worship Ali's name[7] —
Their Heav'n and *ours* are just the same —
(A Persian's Heav'n is easily made,
'Tis but black eyes and lemonade.)
Yet, though we've tried for centuries back —
We can't persuade this stubborn pack,
By bastinadoes, screws, or nippers,
To wear th' establish'd pea-green slippers.[8]
Then, only think, the libertines!
They wash their toes — they comb their chins[9],
With many more such deadly sins;
And what's the worst (though last I rank it),
Believe the Chapter of the Blanket!

Yet, spite of tenets so flagitious,
(Which *must*, at bottom, be seditious;

[1] Alluding, I suppose, to the Latin Advertisement of a Lusus Naturæ in the Newspapers lately.

[2] I have made many inquiries about this Persian gentleman, but cannot satisfactorily ascertain who he is. From his notions of Religious Liberty, however, I conclude that he is an importation of Ministers; and he has arrived just in time to assist the P——e and Mr. L—ck—e in their new Oriental Plan of Reform. — See the second of these Letters. How Abdallah's epistle to Ispahan found its way into the Twopenny Post-Bag is more than I can pretend to account for.

[3] "C'est un honnête homme," said a Turkish governor of De Ruyter; "c'est grand dommage qu'il soit Chrétien."

[4] *Sunnites* and *Shiites* are the two leading sects into which the Mahometan world is divided; and they have gone on cursing and persecuting each other, without any intermission, for about eleven hundred years. The *Sunni* is the established sect in Turkey, and the *Shia* in Persia; and the differences between them turn chiefly upon those important points, which our pious friend Abdallah, in the true spirit of Shiite Ascendency, reprobates in this Letter.

[5] "Les Sunnites, qui étoient comme les Catholiques de Musulmanisme." — *D'Herbelot.*

[6] "In contradistinction to the Sounis, who in their prayers cross their hands on the lower part of their breast, the Schiahs drop their arms in straight lines; and as the Sounis, at certain periods of the prayer, press their foreheads on the ground or carpet, the Schiahs," &c. &c. — *Forster's Voyage.*

[7] "Les Turcs ne détestent pas Ali réciproquement; au contraire, ils le reconnoissent," &c. &c. — *Chardin.*

[8] 'The Shiites wear green slippers, which the Sunnites consider as a great abomination." — *Mariti.*

[9] For these points of difference, as well as for the Chapter of the Blanket, I must refer the reader (not having the book by me) to Picart's Account of the Mahometan Sects.

Since no man living would refuse
Green slippers, but from treasonous views;
Nor wash his toes, but with intent
To overturn the government,)—
Such is our mild and tolerant way,
We only curse them twice a day
(According to a Form that's set),
And, far from torturing, only let
All orthodox believers beat 'em,
And twitch their beards, where'er they meet 'em.

As to the rest, they're free to do
Whate'er their fancy prompts them to,
Provided they make nothing of it
Tow'rds rank or honour, power or profit;
Which things, we nat'rally expect,
Belong to us, the Establish'd sect,
Who disbelieve (the Lord be thanked!)
Th' aforesaid Chapter of the Blanket.
The same mild views of Toleration
Inspire, I find, this button'd nation,
Whose Papists (full as giv'n to rogue,
And only Sunnites with a brogue)
Fare just as well, with all their fuss,
As rascal Sunnites do with us.

The tender Gazel I enclose
Is for my love, my Syrian Rose—
Take it when night begins to fall,
And throw it o'er her mother's wall.

GAZEL.

Rememberest thou the hour we past,—
That hour the happiest and the last?
Oh! not so sweet the Siha thorn
To summer bees, at break of morn,
Not half so sweet, through dale and dell,
To Camels' ears the tinkling bell,
As is the soothing memory
Of that one precious hour to me.

How can we live, so far apart?
Oh! why not rather, heart to heart,
United live and die—
Like those sweet birds, that fly together,
With feather always touching feather,
Link'd by a hook and eye![1]

LETTER VII.

FROM MESSRS. L—CK—GT—N AND CO. TO ——— ———, ESQ.[2]

Per Post, Sir, we send your MS.—look'd it thro'—
Very sorry—but can't undertake—'twouldn't do.
Clever work, Sir!—would *get up* prodigiously well—
Its only defect is—it never would sell.
And though *Statesmen* may glory in being *unbought*,
In an *Author* 'tis not so desirable thought.

Hard times, Sir,—most books are too dear to be read—
Though the *gold* of Good-sense and Wit's *small-change* are fled,
Yet the *paper* we Publishers pass, in their stead,
Rises higher each day, and ('tis frightful to think it)
Not even such names as F—tzg—r—d's can sink it!

However, Sir—if you're for trying again,
And at somewhat that's vendible—we are your men.

Since the Chevalier C—rr[3] took to marrying lately,
The Trade is in want of a *Traveller* greatly—
No job, Sir, more easy—your *Country* once plann'd,
A month aboard ship and a fortnight on land
Puts your Quarto of Travels, Sir, clean out of hand.

An East-India pamphlet's a thing that would tell—
And a lick at the Papists is *sure* to sell well.
Or—supposing you've nothing *original* in you—
Write Parodies, Sir, and such fame it will win you,
You'll get to the Blue-stocking Routs of Albinia![4]
(Mind—*not* to her *dinners*—a *second-hand* Muse
Must'nt think of aspiring to *mess* with the *Blues*.)
Or—in case nothing else in this world you can do—
The deuce is in't, Sir, if you cannot *review!*

[1] This will appear strange to an English reader, but it is literally translated from Abdallah's Persian, and the curious bird to which he alludes is the *Juftak*, of which I find the following account in Richardson:—"A sort of bird, that is said to have but one wing; on the opposite side to which the male has a hook and the female a ring, so that, when they fly, they are fastened together."

[2] From motives of delicacy, and, indeed, of *fellow-feeling*, I suppress the name of the Author, whose rejected manuscript was inclosed in this letter.—See the Appendix.

[3] Sir John Carr, the author of "Tours in Ireland, Holland, Sweden," &c. &c.

[4] This alludes, I believe, to a curious correspondence, which is said to have passed lately between Alb—n—a, Countess of B—ck—gh—ms—e, and a certain ingenious Parodist.

Should you feel any touch of *poetical* glow,
We've a Scheme to suggest—Mr. Sc—tt, you must know,
(Who, we're sorry to say it, now works for *the Row*[1],)
Having quitted the Borders, to seek new renown,
Is coming, by long Quarto stages, to Town;
And beginning with Rokeby (the job's sure to pay)
Means to *do* all the Gentlemen's Seats on the way.
Now, the Scheme is (though none of our hackneys can beat him)
To start a fresh Poet through Highgate to *meet* him;
Who, by means of quick proofs—no revises—long coaches—
May do a few Villas, before Sc—tt approaches.
Indeed, if our Pegasus be not curst shabby,
He'll reach, without found'ring, at least Woburn-Abbey.
Such, Sir, is our plan—if you're up to the freak,
'Tis a match! and we'll put you *in training* next week.
At present, no more—in reply to this Letter, a
Line will oblige very much

Yours, et cetera.

Temple of the Muses.

LETTER VIII.

FROM COLONEL TH—M—S TO ——— SK—FF—NGT—N, ESQ.

Come to our Fête[2], and bring with thee
Thy newest, best embroidery.
Come to our Fête, and show again
That pea-green coat, thou pink of men,
Which charm'd all eyes, that last survey'd it;
When Br—mm—l's self inquir'd "who made it?"—
When Cits came wond'ring, from the East,
And thought thee Poet Pye *at least!*

Oh! come, (if haply 'tis thy week
For looking pale,) with paly cheek;
Though more we love thy roseate days,
When the rich rouge-pot pours its blaze
Full o'er thy face, and, amply spread,
Tips even thy whisker-tops with red—
Like the last tints of dying Day
That o'er some darkling grove delay.

Bring thy best lace, thou gay Philander,
(That lace, like H—rry Al—x—nd—r,
Too precious to be wash'd,)—thy rings,
Thy seals—in short, thy prettiest *things!*
Put all thy wardrobe's glories on,
And yield in frogs and fringe, to none
But the great R—g—t's self alone;
Who—by particular desire—
For that night only, means to hire
A dress from Romeo C—tes, Esquire.[3]
Hail, first of Actors![4] best of R—g—t's!
Born for each other's fond allegiance!
Both gay Lotharios—both good dressers—
Of serious Farce *both* learn'd Professors—
Both circled round, for use or show,
With cock's combs, wheresoe'er they go![5]

Thou know'st the time, thou man of lore!
It takes to chalk a ball-room floor—
Thou know'st the time, too, well-a-day!
It takes to dance that chalk away.[6]
The Ball-room opens—far and nigh
Comets and suns beneath us lie;
O'er snow-white moons and stars we walk,
And the floor seems one sky of chalk!
But soon shall fade that bright deceit,
When many a maid, with busy feet
That sparkle in the lustre's ray,
O'er the white path shall bound and play
Like Nymphs along the Milky Way:—
With every step a star hath fled,
And suns grow dim beneath their tread!
So passeth life—(thus Sc—tt would write,
And spinsters read him with delight,)—
Hours are not feet, yet hours trip on,
Time is not chalk, yet time's soon gone![7]

But, hang this long digressive flight!—
I meant to say, thou'lt see, that night,

[1] Paternoster Row.

[2] This Letter enclosed a Card for the Grand Fête on the 5th of February.

[3] An amateur actor of much risible renown.

[4] Quem tu, Melpomene, semel
Nascentem *placido lumine*, videris, &c. HORAT.
The Man, upon whom thou hast deign'd to look funny,
Oh Tragedy's Muse! at the hour of his birth—
Let them say what they will, that's the Man for *my* money,
Give others thy tears, but let *me* have thy mirth!

[5] The crest of Mr. C—tes, the very amusing amateur tragedian here alluded to, was a cock; and most profusely were his liveries, harness, &c. covered with this ornament.

[6] To those, who neither go to balls nor read the Morning Post, it may be necessary to mention, that the floors of Ball-rooms, in general, are chalked, for safety and for ornament, with various fanciful devices.

[7] Hearts are not flint, yet flints are rent,
Hearts are not steel, yet steel is bent.
After all, however, Mr. Sc—tt may well say to the Colonel, (and, indeed, to much better wags than the Colonel,) ῥᾶον μωμεισθαι η μιμεισθαι.

What falsehood rankles in their hearts,
Who say the Pr——e neglects the arts—
Neglects the arts?—no, Str—hl—g[1], no;
Thy Cupids answer "'tis not so;"
And every floor, that night, shall tell
How quick thou daubest, and how well.
Shine as thou may'st in French vermilion,
Thou'rt *best*, beneath a French cotillion;
And still com'st off, whate'er thy faults,
With *flying colours* in a Waltz.
Nor need'st thou mourn the transient date
To thy best works assign'd by fate.
While *some* chef-d'œuvres live to weary one,
Thine boast a short life and a merry one;
Their hour of glory past and gone
With "Molly put the kettle on!"[2]

But, bless my soul! I've scarce a leaf
Of paper left—so, must be brief.

This festive Fête, in fact, will be
The former Fête's *fac-simile*;[3]
The same long Masquerade of Rooms,
All trick'd up in such odd costumes,
(These, P—rt—r[4], are thy glorious works!)
You'd swear Egyptians, Moors, and Turks,
Bearing Good-Taste some deadly malice,
Had clubb'd to raise a Pic-Nic Palace;
And each to make the olio pleasant
Had sent a State-Room as a present.
The same *fauteuils* and girondoles—
The same gold Asses[5], pretty souls!
That, in this rich and classic dome,
Appear so perfectly at home.
The same bright river 'mong the dishes,
But *not*—ah! not the same dear fishes—
Late hours and claret kill'd the old one's—
So 'stead of silver and of gold ones,
(It being rather hard to raise
Fish of that *specie* now-a-days)
Some sprats have been by Y—rm—th's wish,
Promoted into *Silver* Fish,
And Gudgeons (so V—ns—tt—t told
The R—g—t) are as good as *Gold!*

So, prithee, come—our Fête will be
But half a Fête if wanting thee.

[1] A foreign artist much patronized by the Prince Regent.

[2] The name of a popular country-dance.

[3] "C—rlt—n H——e will exhibit a complete *fac-simile*, in respect to interior ornament, to what it did at the last Fête. The same splendid draperies," &c. &c.—*Morning Post.*

[4] Mr. Walsh Porter, to whose taste was left the furnishing of the rooms of Carlton House.

APPENDIX.

LETTER IV. PAGE 152.

AMONG the papers, enclosed in Dr. D—g—n—n's Letter, was found an Heroic Epistle in Latin verse, from Pope Joan to her Lover, of which, as it is rather a curious document, I shall venture to give some account. This female Pontiff was a native of England, (or, according to others, of Germany,) who, at an early age, disguised herself in male attire, and followed her lover, a young ecclesiastic, to Athens, where she studied with such effect, that upon her arrival at Rome, she was thought worthy of being raised to the Pontificate. This Epistle is addressed to her Lover (whom she had elevated to the dignity of Cardinal), soon after the fatal *accouchement*, by which her Fallibility was betrayed.

She begins by reminding him tenderly of the time, when they were together at Athens—when, as she says,

——"by Ilissus' stream
"We whisp'ring walk'd along, and learn'd to speak
"The tenderest feelings in the purest Greek;—
"Ah, then how little did we think or hope,
"Dearest of men, that I should e'er be Pope![6]
"That I, the humble Joan, whose house-wife art
"Seem'd just enough to keep thy house and heart,
"(And those, alas, at sixes and at sevens,)
"Should soon keep all the keys of all the heavens!"

Still less (she continues to say) could they have foreseen, that such a catastrophe as had happened in Council would befall them—that she

"Should thus surprise the Conclave's grave decorum,
"And let a *little Pope* pop out before 'em—
"Pope *Innocent I* alas, the only one
"That name could e'er be justly fix'd upon."

She then very pathetically laments the downfall of her greatness, and enumerates the various treasures to which she is doomed to bid farewell for ever:—

[5] The salt-cellars on the Pr——e's *own* table were in the form of an Ass with panniers.

[6] Spanheim attributes the unanimity, with which Joan was elected, to that innate and irresistible charm, by which her sex, though latent, operated upon the instinct of the Cardinals—"Non vi aliquâ, sed concorditer, omnium in se conversa desiderio, quæ sunt blandientis sexus artes, latentes in hâc quanquam!"

"But oh, more dear, more precious ten times over—
"Farewell my Lord, my Cardinal, my Lover!
"I made *thee* Cardinal—thou mad'st *me*—ah!
"Thou mad'st the Papa of the world Mamma!"

I have not time at present to translate any more of this Epistle; but I presume the argument which the Right Hon. Doctor and his friends mean to deduce from it, is (in their usual convincing strain) that Romanists must be unworthy of Emancipation *now*, because they had a Petticoat Pope in the Ninth Century. Nothing can be more logically clear, and I find that Horace had exactly the same views upon the subject.

Romanus (eheu posteri negabitis!)
Emancipatus FŒMINÆ
Fert vallum!

LETTER VII. PAGE 155.

THE Manuscript, found enclosed in the Bookseller's Letter, turns out to be a Melo-Drama, in two Acts, entitled "The Book[1]," of which the Theatres, of course, had had the refusal, before it was presented to Messrs. L—ck—ngt—n and Co. This rejected Drama, however, possesses considerable merit, and I shall take the liberty of laying a sketch of it before my Readers.

The first Act opens in a very awful manner—*Time*, three o'clock in the morning—*Scene*, the Bourbon Chamber[2] in C—rlt—n House—Enter the P——e R—g—t solus—After a few broken sentences, he thus exclaims:—

Away—Away—
Thou haunt'st my fancy so, thou devilish Book,
I meet thee—trace thee, wheresoe'er I look.
I see thy damned *ink* in Eld—n's brows—
I see thy *foolscap* on my H—rtf—d's Spouse—
V—ns—tt—t's head recalls thy *leathern* case,
And all thy *black-leaves* stare from R—d—r's face!

While turning here (*laying his hand on his heart*),
I find, ah wretched elf,
Thy *List* of dire *Errata* in myself.
(*Walks the stage in considerable agitation.*)
Oh Roman Punch! oh potent Curaçoa!
Oh Mareschino! Mareschino oh!
Delicious drams! why have you not the art
To kill this gnawing *Book-worm* in my heart?

He is here interrupted in his Soliloquy by perceiving on the ground some scribbled fragments of paper, which he instantly collects, and "by the light of two magnificent candelabras" discovers the following unconnected words, "*Wife neglected*"—"*the Book*"—"*Wrong Measures*"—"*the Queen*"—"*Mr. Lambert*"—"*the* R—g—t."

Ha! treason in my house!—Curst words, that wither
My princely soul, (*shaking the papers violently*) what Demon brought you hither?
"My Wife;"—"the Book" too!—stay—a nearer look—
(*holding the fragments closer to the Candelabras*)
Alas! too plain, B, double O, K, Book—
Death and destruction!

He here rings all the bells, and a whole legion of valets enter. A scene of cursing and swearing (very much in the German style) ensues, in the course of which messengers are dispatched in different directions, for the L—rd Ch—nc—ll—r, the D—e of C—b—l—d, &c. &c. The intermediate time is filled up by another Soliloquy, at the conclusion of which the aforesaid Personages rush on alarmed; the D—ke with his stays only half-laced, and the Ch—nc—ll—r with his wig thrown hastily over an old red night-cap, "to maintain the becoming splendour of his office."[3] The R—g—t produces the appalling fragments, upon which the Ch—nc—ll—r breaks out into exclamations of loyalty and tenderness, and relates the following portentous dream:

'Tis scarcely two hours since
I had a fearful dream of thee, my P——e!—
Methought I heard thee, midst a courtly crowd,
Say from thy throne of gold, in mandate loud,

[1] There was, in like manner, a mysterious Book, in the 16th Century, which employed all the anxious curiosity of the Learned of that time. Every one spoke of it; many wrote against it; though it does not appear than any body had ever seen it; and Grotius is of opinion that no such Book ever existed. It was entitled "Liber de tribus impostoribus." (See Morhof, Cap. de Libris damnatis.)—Our more modern mystery of "the Book" resembles this in many particulars; and, if the number of Lawyers employed in drawing it up be stated correctly, a slight alteration of the title into "*à* tribus impostoribus" would produce a coincidence altogether very remarkable.

[2] The same Chamber, doubtless, that was prepared for the reception of the Bourbons at the first Grand Fête, and which was ornamented (all "for the Deliverance of Europe") with *fleurs-de-lys*.

[3] "To enable the individual, who holds the office of Chancellor, to maintain it in becoming splendour." (*A loud laugh.*)—Lord CASTLEREAGH's *Speech upon the Vice-Chancellor's Bill.*

"Worship my whiskers!"—(*weeps*) not a knee was there
But bent and worshipp'd the Illustrious Pair,
Which curl'd in conscious majesty! (*pulls out his handkerchief*)—while cries
Of "Whiskers, whiskers!" shook the echoing skies.—
Just in that glorious hour, methought, there came,
With looks of injur'd pride, a Princely Dame,
And a young maiden, clinging by her side,
As if she fear'd some tyrant would divide
Two hearts that nature and affection tied!
The Matron came—within her *right* hand glow'd
A radiant torch; while from her *left* a load
Of Papers hung—(*wipes his eyes*) collected in her veil—
The venal evidence, the slanderous tale,
The wounding hint, the current lies that pass
From *Post* to *Courier*, form'd the motley mass;
Which, with disdain, before the Throne she throws,
And lights the Pile beneath thy princely nose.
(*Weeps.*)
Heav'ns, how it blaz'd!—I'd ask no livelier fire
(*With animation*) To roast a Papist by, my gracious Sire!—
But, ah! the Evidence—(*weeps again*) I mourn'd to see—
Cast, as it burn'd, a deadly light on thee:
And Tales and Hints their random sparkle flung,
And hiss'd and crackled, like an old maid's tongue;
While *Post* and *Courier*, faithful to their fame,
Made up in stink for what they lack'd in flame.
When, lo, ye Gods! the fire ascending brisker,
Now singes *one*, now lights the *other* whisker.
Ah! where was then the Sylphid, that unfurls
Her fairy standard in defence of curls?
Throne, Whiskers, Wig, soon vanish'd into smoke,
The watchman cried "Past One," and—I awoke.

Here his Lordship weeps more profusely than ever, and the R—g—t (who has been very much agitated during the recital of the Dream) by a movement as characteristic as that of Charles XII. when he was shot, claps his hands to his whiskers to feel if all be really safe. A Privy Council is held—all the Servants, &c. are examined, and it appears that a Tailor, who had come to measure the R—g—t for a Dress (which takes three whole pages of the best superfine *clinquant* in describing) was the only person who had been in the Bourbon Chamber during the day. It is, accordingly, determined to seize the Tailor, and the Council breaks up with a unanimous resolution to be vigorous.

The commencement of the Second Act turns chiefly upon the Trial and Imprisonment of two Brothers[1]—but as this forms the *under* plot of the Drama, I shall content myself with extracting from it the following speech, which is addressed the two Brothers, as they "exeunt severally" to Prison:—

Go to your prisons—though the air of Spring
No mountain coolness to your cheeks shall bring;
Though Summer flowers shall pass unseen away,
And all your portion of the glorious day
May be some solitary beam that falls,
At morn or eve, upon your dreary walls—
Some beam that enters, trembling as if aw'd,
To tell how gay the young world laughs abroad!
Yet go—for thoughts as blessed as the air
Of Spring or Summer flowers await you there;
Thoughts, such as He, who feasts his courtly crew
In rich conservatories, *never* knew;
Pure self-esteem,—the smiles that light within—
The Zeal, whose circling charities begin
With the few lov'd ones Heaven has plac'd it near,
And spread, till all Mankind are in its sphere;
The Pride, that suffers without vaunt or plea,
And the fresh Spirit, that can warble free,
Through prison-bars, its hymn to Liberty!

The Scene next changes to a Tailor's Work-shop, and a fancifully-arranged group of these Artists is discovered upon the Shop-board—Their task evidently of a *royal* nature, from the profusion of gold-lace, frogs, &c. that lie about—They all rise and come forward, while one of them sings the following Stanzas to the tune of "Derry Down."

My brave brother Tailors, come, straighten your knees,
For a moment, like gentlemen, stand up at ease,
While I sing of our P——e (and a fig for his railers)
The Shop-board's delight! the Mæcenas of Tailors!
Derry down, down, down derry down.

Some monarchs take roundabout ways into note,
While *His* short cut to fame is—the cut of his coat;
Philip's Son thought the World was too small for his Soul,
But our R—g—t's finds room in a lac'd button-hole.
Derry down, &c.

Look through all Europe's Kings—those, at least, who go loose—
Not a King of them all's such a friend to the Goose,

[1] Mr. Leigh Hunt and his brother.

So, God keep him increasing in size and renown,
Still the fattest and best fitted P——e about town!
Derry down, &c.

During the "Derry down" of this last verse, a messenger from the S—c—t—y of S——e's Office rushes on, and the singer (who, luckily for the effect of the scene, is the very Tailor suspected of the mysterious fragments) is interrupted in the midst of his laudatory exertions, and hurried away, to the no small surprise and consternation of his comrades. The Plot now hastens rapidly in its developement—the management of the Tailor's examination is highly skilful, and the alarm, which he is made to betray, is natural without being ludicrous. The explanation, too, which he finally gives is not more simple than satisfactory. It appears that the said fragments formed part of a self-exculpatory note, which he had intended to send to Colonel M'M——n upon subjects purely professional, and the corresponding bits (which still lie luckily in his pocket) being produced, and skilfully laid beside the others, the following billet-doux is the satisfactory result of their juxtaposition.

Honour'd Colonel—my Wife, who's the Queen of all slatterns,
Neglected to put up the Book of new Patterns.
She sent the wrong Measures too—shamefully wrong—
They're the same us'd for poor Mr. Lambert, when young;
But, bless you! they wouldn't go half round the R—g—t—
So, hope you'll excuse yours till death, most obedient.

This fully explains the whole mystery—the R—g—t resumes his wonted smiles, and the Drama terminates as usual, to the satisfaction of all parties.

SATIRICAL AND HUMOROUS POEMS.

ΣΧΟΛΑΖΟΝΤΟΣ ΑΣΧΟΛΙΑ.

THE INSURRECTION OF THE PAPERS.

A DREAM.

"It would be impossible for his Royal Highness to disengage his person from the accumulating pile of papers that encompassed it."—Lord CASTLEREAGH's *Speech upon Colonel M'Mahon's Appointment, April* 14. 1812.

Last night I toss'd and turn'd in bed,
But could not sleep—at length I said,
"I'll think of Viscount C—stl—r—gh,
"And of his speeches—that's the way."
And so it was, for instantly
I slept as sound as sound could be.
And then I dreamt—so dread a dream!
Fuseli has no such theme;
Lewis never wrote or borrow'd
Any horror, half so horrid!

Methought the Pr——e, in whisker'd state,
Before me at his breakfast sate;
On one side lay unread Petitions,
On t'other, Hints from five Physicians;
Here tradesmen's bills,—official papers,
Notes from my Lady, drams for vapours—
There plans of saddles, tea and toast,
Death-warrants and the Morning Post.

When lo! the Papers, one and all,
As if at some magician's call,
Began to flutter of themselves
From desk and table, floor and shelves,
And, cutting each some different capers,
Advanc'd, oh jacobinic papers!
As though they said, "Our sole design is
"To suffocate his Royal Highness!"
The Leader of this vile sedition
Was a huge Catholic Petition,
With grievances so full and heavy,
It threaten'd worst of all the bevy.
Then Common-Hall Addresses came
In swaggering sheets, and took their aim

Right at the R—g—t's well-dress'd head,
As if *determin'd* to be read.
Next Tradesmen's Bills began to fly,
And Tradesmen's Bills, we know, mount high;
Nay, ev'n Death-warrants thought they'd best
Be lively too, and join the rest.

But, oh the basest of defections!
His letter about "predilections"—
His own dear Letter, void of grace,
Now flew up in its parent's face!
Shock'd with his breach of filial duty,
He just could murmur "*et* Tu *Brute?*"
Then sunk, subdued upon the floor
At Fox's bust, to rise no more!

I wak'd—and pray'd, with lifted hand,
"Oh! never may this Dream prove true;
"Though paper overwhelms the land,
"Let it not crush the Sovereign too!"

PARODY

OF A CELEBRATED LETTER.[1]

At length, dearest Freddy, the moment is nigh,
When, with P—rc—v—l's leave, I may throw my chains by;
And, as time now is precious, the first thing I do,
Is to sit down and write a wise letter to you.

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I meant before now to have sent you this Letter,
But Y—rm—th and I thought perhaps 'twould be better
To wait till the Irish affairs were decided—
(That is, till both Houses had prosed and divided,
With all due appearance of thought and digestion)—
For, though H—rtf—rd House had long settled the question,
I thought it but decent, between me and you,
That the two *other* Houses should settle it too.

I need not remind you how cursedly bad
Our affairs were all looking, when Father went mad;[2]
A straight waistcoat on him and restrictions on me,
A more *limited* Monarchy could not well be.
I was call'd upon then, in that moment of puzzle,
To choose my own Minister—just as they muzzle
A playful young bear, and then mock his disaster,
By bidding him choose out his own dancing-master.

I thought the best way, as a dutiful son,
Was to do as Old Royalty's self would have done.[3]
So I sent word to say, I would keep the whole batch in,
The same chest of tools, without cleansing or patching;
For tools of this kind, like Martinus's sconce;[4]
Would lose all their beauty, if purified once;
And think—only think—if our Father should find,
Upon graciously coming again to his mind,[5]
That improvement had spoil'd any favourite adviser—
That R—se was grown honest, or W—stm—rel—nd wiser—
That R—d—r was, ev'n by one twinkle, the brighter—
Or L—v—rp—l's speeches but half a pound lighter—
What a shock to his old royal heart it would be!
No!—far were such dreams of improvement from me:
And it pleas'd me to find, at the House, where, you know,[6]
There's such good mutton cutlets, and strong curaçoa[7],
That the Marchioness call'd me a duteous old boy,
And my Y—rm—th's red whiskers grew redder for joy.

You know, my dear Freddy, how oft, if I *would*,
By the law of last Sessions I *might* have done good.
I *might* have withheld these political noodles
From knocking their heads against hot Yankee Doodles;
I *might* have told Ireland I pitied her lot,
Might have sooth'd her with hope—but you know I did not.

[1] Letter from his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to the Duke of York, Feb. 13. 1812.

[2] "I think it hardly necessary to call your recollection to the recent circumstances under which I assumed the authority delegated to me by Parliament."—*Prince's Letter.*

[3] "My sense of duty to our Royal father solely decided that choice."—*Ibid.*

[4] The antique shield of Martinus Scriblerus, which, upon scouring, turned out to be only an old sconce.

[5] "I waved any personal gratification, in order that his Majesty might resume, on his restoration to health, every power and prerogative," &c.—*Prince's Letter.*

[6] "And I have the satisfaction of knowing that such was the opinion of persons for whose judgment," &c. &c.—*Ibid.*

[7] The letter-writer's favourite luncheon.

And my wish is, in truth, that the best of old fellows
Should not, on recovering, have cause to be jealous,
But find that, while he has been laid on the shelf,
We've been all of us nearly as mad as himself.
You smile at my hopes—but the Doctors and I,
Are the last that can think the K—ng *ever* will die.[1]

A new era's arriv'd[2],—though you'd hardly believe it—
And all things, of course, must be new to receive it.
New villas, new fêtes (which ev'n Waithman attends)—
New saddles, new helmets, and—why not *new friends?*

* * * *
* * * *

I repeat it, "New Friends"—for I cannot describe
The delight I am in with this P—rc—v—l tribe.
Such capering!—Such vapouring!—Such rigour!—Such vigour!
North, South, East, and West, they have cut such a figure,
That soon they will bring the whole world round our ears,
And leave us no friends—but Old Nick and Algiers.

When I think of the glory they've beam'd on my chains,
'Tis enough quite to turn my illustrious brains.
It is true we are bankrupts in commerce and riches,
But think how we find our Allies in new breeches!
We've lost the warm hearts of the Irish, 'tis granted,
But then we've got Java, an island much wanted,
To put the last lingering few who remain,
Of the Walcheren warriors, out of their pain.
Then how Wellington fights! and how squabbles his brother!
For Papists the one, and *with* Papists the other;
One crushing Napoleon by taking a City,
While t'other lays waste a whole Cath'lic Committee.
Oh deeds of renown!—shall I boggle or flinch,
With such prospects before me? by Jove, not an inch.
No—let *England's* affairs go to rack, if they will,
We'll look after th' affairs of the *Continent* still;
And, with nothing at home but starvation and riot,
Find Lisbon in bread, and keep Sicily quiet.

I am proud to declare I have no predilections,[3]
My heart is a sieve, where some scatter'd affections
Are just danc'd about for a moment or two,
And the *finer* they are, the more sure to run through:
Neither feel I resentments, nor wish there should come ill
To mortal—except (now I think on't) Beau Br—mm—l
Who threaten'd last year, in a superfine passion,
To cut *me*, and bring the old K—ng into fashion.
This is all I can lay to my conscience at present;
When such is my temper, so neutral, so pleasant,
So royally free from all troublesome feelings,
So little encumber'd by faith in my dealings
(And that I'm consistent the world will allow,
What I was at Newmarket the same I am now).
When such are my merits (you know I hate cracking),
I hope, like the Vender of Best Patent Blacking,
"To meet with the gen'rous and kind approbation
"Of a candid, enlighten'd, and liberal nation."

By the bye, ere I close this magnificent Letter,
(No man, except Pole, could have writ you a better,)
'Twould please me if those, whom I've humbug'd so long[4]
With the notion (good men!) that I knew right from wrong,
Would a few of them join me—mind, only a few—
To let *too* much light in on me never would do;
But even Grey's brightness shan't make me afraid,
While I've C—md—n and Eld—n to fly to for shade;
Nor will Holland's clear intellect do us much harm,
While there's W—stm—rel—nd near him to weaken the charm.
As for Moira's high spirit, if aught can subdue it,
Sure joining with H—rtf—rd and Y—rm—th will do it!
Between R—d—r and Wh—rt—n let Sheridan sit,
And the fogs will soon quench even Sheridan's wit:
And against all the pure public feeling that glows
Ev'n in Whitbread himself we've a Host in G—rge R—se!
So, in short, if they wish to have Places, they may,
And I'll thank you to tell all these matters to Grey[5],

[1] "I certainly am the last person in the kingdom to whom it can be permitted to despair of our royal father's recovery."—*Prince's Letter.*

[2] "A new era is now arrived, and I cannot but reflect with satisfaction," &c.—*Ibid.*

[3] "I have no predilections to indulge,—no resentments to gratify."—*Ibid.*

[4] "I cannot conclude without expressing the gratification I should feel if some of those persons with whom the early habits of my public life were formed would strengthen my hands, and constitute a part of my government."—*Ibid.*

[5] "You are authorized to communicate these sentiments to Lord Grey, who, I have no doubt, will make them known to Lord Grenville."—*Ibid.*

Who, I doubt not, will write (as there's no time to lose)
By the twopenny post to tell Grenville the news;
And now, dearest Fred (though I've no predilection),
Believe me yours always with truest affection.

P. S. A copy of this is to P—rc—l going[1]
Good Lord, how St. Stephen's will ring with his crowing!

ANACREONTIC

TO A PLUMASSIER.

FINE and feathery artisan,
Best of Plumists (if you can
With your art so far presume)
Make for me a Pr—ce's Plume—
Feathers soft and feathers rare,
Such as suits a Pr—ce to wear.

First, thou downiest of men,
Seek me out a fine Pea-hen;
Such a Hen, so tall and grand,
As by Juno's side might stand,
If there were no cocks at hand.
Seek her feathers, soft as down,
Fit to shine on Pr—ce's crown;
If thou canst not find them, stupid!
Ask the way of Prior's Cupid.[2]

Ranging these in order due,
Pluck me next an old Cuckoo;
Emblem of the happy fates
Of easy, kind, cornuted mates.
Pluck him well—be sure you do—
Who wouldn't be an old Cuckoo,
Thus to have his plumage blest,
Beaming on a R—y—l crest?

Bravo, Plumist!—now what bird
Shall we find for Plume the third?
You must get a learned Owl,
Bleakest of black-letter fowl,—
Bigot bird, that hates the light,[3]
Foe to all that's fair and bright.
Seize his quills, (so form'd to pen
Books[4], that shun the search of men;
Books, that, far from every eye,
In "swelter'd venom sleeping" lie,)
Stick them in between the two,
Proud Pea-hen and old Cuckoo.
Now you have the triple feather,
Bind the kindred stems together
With a silken tie, whose hue
Once was brilliant Buff and Blue;
Sullied now—alas, how much!
Only fit for Y—rm—th's touch.

There—enough—thy task is done;
Present, worthy G——ge's Son;
Now, beneath, in letters neat,
Write "I SERVE," and all's complete.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE DIARY OF A POLITICIAN.

Wednesday.

THROUGH M—nch—st—r Square took a canter just now—
Met the *old yellow chariot*[5], and made a low bow.
This I did, of course, thinking 'twas loyal and civil,
But got such a look—oh 'twas black as the devil!
How unlucky!—*incog.* he was trav'lling about,
And I, like a noodle, must go find him out.

Mem.—when next by the old yellow chariot I ride,
To remember there *is* nothing princely inside.

Thursday.

At Levee to-day made another sad blunder—
What *can* be come over me lately, I wonder?
The Pr—ce was as cheerful, as if, all his life,
He had never been troubled with Friends or a Wife—
"Fine weather," says he—to which I, who *must* prate,
Answered, "Yes, Sir, but *changeable* rather, of late."
He took it, I fear, for he look'd somewhat gruff,
And handled his new pair of whiskers so rough,
That before all the courtiers I fear'd they'd come off,
And then, Lord, how Geramb[6] would triumphantly scoff!

[1] "I shall send a copy of this letter immediately to Mr. Perceval."—*Prince's Letter.*
[2] See Prior's poem, entitled "The Dove."
[3] P—rc—v—l.
[4] In allusion to "the Book" which created such a sensation at that period.
[5] The *incog.* vehicle of the Pr—ce.
[6] Baron Geramb, the rival of his R. H. in whiskers.

Mem.—to buy for son Dicky some unguent or lotion
To nourish his whiskers—sure road to promotion![1]

Saturday.

Last night a Concert—vastly gay—
Given by Lady C—stl—r—gh.
My Lord loves music, and, we know,
Has "two strings always to his bow."[2]
In choosing songs, the R—g—t nam'd
"*Had I a heart for falsehood fram'd.*"
While gentle H—rtf—d begg'd and pray'd
For "*Young I am, and sore afraid.*"

EPIGRAM.

WHAT news to-day?—Oh! worse and worse—
"Mac[3] is the Pr—ce's Privy Purse!"—
The Pr—ce's *Purse!* no, no, you fool,
You mean the Pr—ce's *Ridicule.*

KING CRACK[4] AND HIS IDOLS.

WRITTEN AFTER THE LATE NEGOTIATION FOR A NEW M—N—STRY.

KING CRACK was the best of all possible Kings,
(At least, so his Courtiers would swear to you gladly,)
But Crack now and then would do het'rodox things,
And, at last, took to worshipping *Images* sadly.

Some broken-down Idols, that long had been plac'd
In his father's old *Cabinet*, pleas'd him so much,
That he knelt down and worshipp'd, though—such was his taste!—
They were monstrous to look at, and rotten to touch.

And these were the beautiful Gods of King Crack!—
But his People, disdaining to worship such things,
Cried aloud, one and all, "Come, your Godships must pack—
"You'll not do for' *us*, though you *may* do for *Kings.*"

Then, trampling these images under their feet,
They sent Crack a petition, beginning "Great Cæsar!
"We're willing to worship; but only entreat
"That you'll find us some *decenter* Godheads than these are."

"I'll try," says King Crack—so they furnish'd him models
Of better shap'd Gods, but he sent them all back;
Some were chisell'd too fine, some had heads 'stead of noddles,
In short, they were all *much* too godlike for Crack.

So he took to his darling old Idols again,
And, just mending their legs and new bronzing their faces,
In open defiance of Gods and of man,
Set the monsters up grinning once more in their places.

WHAT'S MY THOUGHT LIKE?

Quest. WHY is a Pump like V—sc—nt C—stl—r—gh?
Answ. Because it is a slender thing of wood,
That up and down its awkward arm doth sway,
And coolly spout and spout and spout away,
In one weak, washy, everlasting flood!

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[1] England is not the only country where merit of this kind is noticed and rewarded. "I remember," says Tavernier, "to have seen one of the King of Persia's porters, whose mustaches were so long that he could tie them behind his neck, for which reason he had a double pension."

[2] A rhetorical figure used by Lord C—stl—r—gh, in one of his speeches.

[3] Colonel M—cm—h—n.

[4] One of those antediluvian Princes, with whom Manetho and Whiston seem so intimately acquainted. If we had the Memoirs of Thoth, from which Manetho compiled his History, we should find, I dare say, that Crack was only a Regent, and that he, perhaps, succeeded Typhon, who (as Whiston says) was the last King of the Antediluvian Dynasty.

EPIGRAM.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN A CATHOLIC DELEGATE AND HIS R—Y—L H—GHN—SS THE D—E OF C—B—L—D.

SAID his Highness to Ned[1], with that grim face of his,
"Why refuse us the *Veto*, dear Catholic Neddy?"
"Because, Sir," said Ned, looking full in his phiz,
"You're *forbidding* enough, in all conscience, already!"

WREATHS FOR THE MINISTERS.

AN ANACREONTIC.

HITHER, Flora, Queen of Flowers!
Haste thee from Old Brompton's bowers—
Or, (if sweeter that abode)
From the King's well-odour'd Road,
Where each little nursery bud
Breathes the dust and quaffs the mud.
Hither come and gaily twine
Brightest herbs and flowers of thine
Into wreaths for those, who rule us,
Those, who rule and (some say) fool us—
Flora, sure, will love to please
England's Household Deities![2]

First you must then, willy-nilly,
Fetch me many an orange lily—
Orange of the darkest dye
Irish G—ff—rd can supply;—
Choose me out the longest sprig,
And stick it in old Eld—n's wig.

Find me next a Poppy posy,
Type of his harangues so dozy,
Garland gaudy, dull and cool,
To crown the head of L—v—rp—l.
'Twill console his brilliant brows
For that loss of laurel boughs,
Which they suffer'd (what a pity!)
On the road to Paris City.

Next, our C—stl—r—gh to crown,
Bring me from the County Down,
Wither'd Shamrocks, which have been
Gilded o'er, to hide the green—
(Such as H—df—t brought away
From Pall-Mall last Patrick's day[3])—
Stitch the garland through and through
With shabby threads *of every hue*;—
And as, Goddess!—*entre nous*—
His lordship loves (though best of men)
A little *torture*, now and then,
Crimp the leaves, thou first of Syrens,
Crimp them with thy curling-irons.

That's enough—away, away—
Had I leisure, I could say
How the *oldest rose* that grows
Must be pluck'd to deck Old Rose—
How the Doctor's[4] brow should smile
Crown'd with wreaths of camomile.
But time presses—to thy taste
I leave the rest, so, prithee, haste!

EPIGRAM.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN A DOWAGER AND HER MAID ON THE NIGHT OF LORD Y—RM—TH'S FÊTE.

"I WANT the Court Guide," said my lady, "to look
"If the House, Seymour Place, be at 30. or 20."—
"We've lost the *Court Guide*, Ma'am, but here's *the Red Book*,
Where you'll find, I dare say, Seymour *Places* in plenty!"

HORACE, ODE XI. LIB. II.

FREELY TRANSLATED BY THE PR—CE R—G—T.[5]

[6] COME, Y—rm—th, my boy, never trouble your brains,
About what your old crony,
The Emperor Boney,
Is doing or brewing on Muscovy's plains;

[1] Edward Byrne, the head of the Delegates of the Irish Catholics.

[2] The ancients, in like manner, crowned their Lares, or Household Gods. See Juvenal, Sat. 9. iv, 138. — Plutarch, too, tells us that Household Gods were then, as they are now, "much given to War and penal Statutes."—ἐριννυωδεις και ποινιμους δαιμονας.

[3] Certain tinsel imitations of the Shamrock which are distributed by the Servants of C——n House every Patrick's Day.

[4] The *sobriquet* given to Lord Sidmouth.

[5] This and the following are extracted from a Work, which may, some time or other, meet the eye of the Public—entitled "Odes of Horace, done into English by several Persons of Fashion."

[6] Quid bellicosus Cantaber, et Scythes,
Hirpine Quincti, cogitet, Hadria
Divisus objecto, remittas
Quærere.

[1] Nor tremble, my lad, at the state of our granaries:
Should there come famine,
Still plenty to cram in
You always shall have, my dear Lord of the Stannaries.

Brisk let us revel, while revel we may;
[2] For the gay bloom of fifty soon passes away,
And then people get fat,
And infirm, and—all that,
[3] And a wig (I confess it) so clumsily sits,
That it frightens the little Loves out of their wits;

[4] Thy whiskers, too, Y—rm—th!—alas, even they,
Though so rosy they burn,
Too quickly must turn
(What a heart-breaking change for thy whiskers!) to Grey.

[5] Then why, my Lord Warden, oh! why should you fidget
Your mind about matters you don't understand?
Or why should you write yourself down for an idiot,
Because "*you*," forsooth, "*have the pen in your hand!*"

Think, think how much better
Than scribbling a letter,
(Which both you and I
Should avoid by the bye,)
[6] How much pleasanter 'tis to sit under the bust
Of old Charley[7], my friend here, and drink like a new one;
While Charley looks sulky and frowns at me, just
As the Ghost in the Pantomime frowns at Don Juan.
[8] To crown us, Lord Warden,
In C—mb—rl—nd's garden
Grows plenty of *monk's hood* in venomous sprigs:
While Otto of Roses
Refreshing all noses
Shall sweetly exhale from our whiskers and wigs.

[9] What youth of the Household will cool our Noyau
In that streamlet delicious,
That down 'midst the dishes,
All full of gold fishes,
Romantic doth flow?—
[10] Or who will repair
Unto M——ch——r Sq——e,
And see if the gentle *Marchesa* be there?
Go—bid her haste hither,
[11] And let her bring with her
The newest No-Popery Sermon that's going—
[12] Oh! let her come, with her dark tresses flowing,
All gentle and juvenile, curly and gay,
In the manner of—Ackermann's Dresses for May!

HORACE, ODE XXII. LIB. I.

FREELY TRANSLATED BY LORD ELD—N.

[3] THE man who keeps a conscience pure,
(If not his own, at least his Prince's,)
Through toil and danger walks secure,
Looks big and black, and never winces.

[14] No want has he of sword or dagger,
Cock'd hat or ringlets of Geramb;
Though Peers may laugh, and Papists swagger,
He doesn't care one single d–mn.

[15] Whether midst Irish chairmen going,
Or through St. Giles's alleys dim,
'Mid drunken Sheelahs, blasting, blowing,
No matter, 'tis all one to him.

---

[1] Nec trepidet in usum
Poscentis ævi pauca.
[2] Fugit retro
Levis juventas et decor.
[3] Pellente lascivos amores
Canitie.
[4] Neque uno Luna *rubens* nitet
Vultu.
[5] Quid æternis *minorem*
Consiliis animum fatigas?
[6] Cur non sub alta vel platano, vel hac
Pinu jacentes sic temere.
[7] Charles Fox.
[8] Rosâ
Canos odorati capillos,
Dum licet, Assyriaque nardo
Potamus uncti.
[9] Quis puer ocius
Restinguet ardentis Falerni
Pocula *prætereunte lympha?*
[10] Quis . . . . . eliciet domo
Lyden?
[11] Eburna, dic age, cum lyra (qu. *liar-a*)
Maturet.
[12] Incomtam Lacænæ
More comam religata nodo.
[13] Integer vitæ scelerisque purus.
[14] Non eget Mauri jaculis, neque arcu,
Nec venenatis gravida sagittis,
Fusce, pharetra.
[15] Sive per Syrtes iter æstuosas,
Sive facturus per inhospitalem
Caucasum, vel quæ loca fabulosus
Lambit Hydaspes.

The Noble Translator had, at first, laid the scene of these imagined dangers of his Man of Conscience among the Pa-

[1] For instance, I, one evening late,
Upon a gay vacation sally,
Singing the praise of Church and State,
Got (God knows how) to Cranbourne Alley.

When lo! an Irish Papist darted
Across my path, gaunt, grim, and big—
I did but frown, and off he started,
Scar'd at me, even without my wig.

[2] Yet a more fierce and raw-bon'd dog
Goes not to mass in Dublin City,
Nor shakes his brogue o'er Allen's Bog,
Nor spouts in Catholic Committee.

[3] Oh! place me midst O'Rourkes, O'Tooles,
The ragged royal-blood of Tara;
Or place me where Dick M—rt—n rules
The houseless wilds of Connemara;

[4] Of Church and State I'll warble still
Though ev'n Dick M—rt—n's self should grumble;
Sweet Church and State, like Jack and Jill,
[5] So lovingly upon a hill—
Ah! ne'er like Jack and Jill to tumble!

---

pists of Spain, and had translated the words "quæ loca *fabulosus lambit* Hydaspes" thus—"The *fabling* Spaniard *licks* the French;" but, recollecting that it is our interest just now to be respectful to *Spanish* Catholics (though there is certainly no earthly reason for our being even commonly civil to *Irish* ones), he altered the passage as it stands at present.

1 Namque me silvâ lupus in Sabinâ,
Dum meam canto Lalagen, et ultra
Terminum curis vagor expeditis,
Fugit inermem.

I cannot help calling the reader's attention to the peculiar ingenuity with which these lines are paraphrased. Not to mention the happy conversion of the Wolf into a Papist, (seeing that Romulus was suckled by a wolf, that Rome was founded by Romulus, and that the Pope has always reigned at Rome), there is something particularly neat in supposing "*ultra terminum*" to mean vacation-time: and then the modest consciousness with which the Noble and Learned Translator has avoided touching upon the words "curis *expeditis*," (or, as it has been otherwise read, "*causis expeditis*,") and the felicitous idea of his being "inermis" when "without his wig," are altogether the most delectable specimens of paraphrase in our language.

2 Quale portentum neque militaris
Daunias latis alit æsculetis,
Nec Jubæ tellus generat leonum
Arida nutrix.

THE

NEW COSTUME OF THE MINISTERS.

—— Nova monstra creavit.
OVID. *Metamorph.* l. i. v. 437.

HAVING sent off the troops of brave Major Camac,
With a swinging horse-tail at each valorous back,
And such helmets, God bless us! as never deck'd any
Male creature before, except Signor Giovanni—
"Let's see," said the R—g—t (like Titus, perplex'd
With the duties of empire,) "whom *shall* I dress next?"

He looks in the glass—but perfection is there,
Wig, whiskers, and chin-tufts all right to a hair;[6]
Not a single *ex*-curl on his forehead he traces—
For curls are like Ministers, strange as the case is,
The *falser* they are, the more firm in their places.
His coat he next views—but the coat who could doubt?
For his Y—rm—th's own Frenchified hand cut it out;
Every pucker and seam were made matters of state,
And a Grand Household Council was held on each plait.

Then whom shall he dress? shall he new-rig his brother,
Great C—mb—rl—d's Duke, with some kickshaw or other?

3 Pone me pigris ubi nulla campis
Arbor æstiva recreatur aura:
Quod latus mundi, nebulæ, malusque
Jupiter urget.

I must here remark, that the said Dick M—rt—n being a very good fellow, it was not at all fair to make a "malus Jupiter" of him.

4 Dulce ridentem Lalagen amabo,
Dulce loquentem.

[5] There cannot be imagined a more happy illustration of the inseparability of Church and State, and their (what is called) "standing and falling together," than this ancient apologue of Jack and Jill. Jack, of course, represents the State in this ingenious little Allegory.

Jack fell down,
And broke his *Crown*,
And Jill came tumbling after.

[6] That model of Princes, the Emperor Commodus, was particularly luxurious in the dressing and ornamenting of his hair. His conscience, however, would not suffer him to trust himself with a barber, and he used, accordingly, to burn off his beard—"timore tonsoris," says Lampridius. (*Hist. August. Scriptor.*) The dissolute Ælius Verus, too, was equally attentive to the decoration of his wig. (See Jul. Capitolin.)—Indeed, this was not the *only* princely trait in the character of Verus, as he had likewise a most hearty and dignified contempt for his Wife.—See his insulting answer to her in Spartianus.

And kindly invent him more Christian-like shapes
For his feather-bed neckcloths and pillory capes.
Ah! no—here his ardour would meet with delays,
For the Duke had been lately pack'd up in new Stays,
So complete for the winter, he saw very plain
'Twould be devilish hard work to *un*pack him again.

So, what's to be done?—there's the Ministers, bless 'em!—
As he *made* the puppets, why shouldn't he *dress* 'em?
"An excellent thought!—call the tailors—be nimble—
"Let Cum bring his spy-glass, and H—rtf—d her thimble;
"While Y—rm—th shall give us, in spite of all quizzers,
"The last Paris cut with his true Gallic scissors."

So saying, he calls C—stl—r—gh, and the rest
Of his heaven-born statesmen, to come and be drest.
While Y—rm—th, with snip-like and brisk expedition,
Cuts up, all at once, a large Cath'lic Petition
In long tailors' measures, (the P—e crying "Well-done!"
And first *puts in hand* my Lord Chancellor Eld—n.

* * * *

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN A LADY AND GENTLEMAN,

UPON THE ADVANTAGE OF (WHAT IS CALLED) "HAVING LAW[1] ON ONE'S SIDE."

The Gentleman's Proposal.

"Legge aurea,
S'ei place, ei lice."

COME, fly to these arms, nor let beauties so bloomy
To one frigid owner be tied;
Your prudes may revile, and your old ones look gloomy,
But, dearest, we've *Law* on our side.

Oh! think the delight of two lovers congenial,
Whom no dull decorums divide;
Their error how sweet, and their raptures how *venial*,
When once they've got Law on their side.

'Tis a thing, that in every King's reign has been done, too:
Then why should it now be decried?
If the Father has done it, why shouldn't the Son, too?
For so argues Law on our side.

And, ev'n should our sweet violation of duty
By cold-blooded jurors be tried,
They can *but* bring it in "a misfortune," my beauty,
As long as we've Law on our side.

The Lady's Answer.

HOLD, hold, my good sir, go a little more slowly;
For, grant me so faithless a bride,
Such sinners as we, are a little too *lowly*,
To hope to have Law on our side.

Had you been a great Prince, to whose star shining o'er 'em
The people should look for their guide,
Then your Highness (and welcome!) might kick down decorum—
You'd always have Law on your side.

Were you ev'n an old Marquis, in mischief grown hoary,
Whose heart, though it long ago died
To the *pleasures* of vice, is alive to its *glory*—
You still would have Law on your side.

But for *you*, Sir, Crim. Con. is a path full of troubles;
By *my* advice therefore abide,
And leave the pursuit to those Princes and Nobles
Who have *such* a *Law* on their side.

OCCASIONAL ADDRESS

FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW THEATRE OF ST. ST—PH—N,

INTENDED TO HAVE BEEN SPOKEN BY THE PROPRIETOR IN FULL COSTUME, ON THE 24TH OF NOVEMBER, 1812.

THIS day a New House, for your edification,
We open, most thinking and right-headed nation!
Excuse the materials—though rotten and bad,
They're the best that for money just now could be had;
And, if *echo* the charm of such houses should be
You will find it shall echo my speech to a T.

[1] In allusion to Lord Ell—nb—gh.

As for actors, we've got the old Company yet,
The same motley, odd, tragi-comical set;
And consid'ring they all were but clerks t'other day,
It is truly surprising how well they can play.
Our Manager[1], (he, who in Ulster was nurst,
And sung *Erin go Brah* for the galleries first,
But, on finding *Pitt*-interest a much better thing,
Chang'd his note of a sudden, to *God save the King*,)
Still wise as he's blooming, and fat as he's clever,
Himself and his speeches as *lengthy* as ever,
Here offers you still the full use of his breath,
Your devoted and long-winded proser till death.

You remember last season, when things went perverse on,
We had to engage (as a block to rehearse on)
One Mr. V—ns—tt—t, a good sort of person,
Who's also employ'd for this season to play;
In "Raising the Wind," and the "Devil to Pay."[2]
We expect too—at least we've been plotting and planning—
To get that great actor from Liverpool, C—nn—g;
And, as at the Circus there's nothing attracts
Like a good *single combat* brought in 'twixt the acts,
If the Manager should, with the help of Sir P—ph—m,
Get up new *diversions*, and C—nn—g should stop 'em,
Who knows but we'll have to announce in the papers,
"Grand fight—second time—with additional capers."

Be your taste for the ludicrous, humdrum, or sad,
There is plenty of each in this House to be had.
Where our Manager ruleth, there weeping will be,
For a *dead hand at tragedy* always was he;
And there never was dealer in dagger and cup,
Who so *smilingly* got all his tragedies up.
His powers poor Ireland will never forget,
And the widows of Walcheren weep o'er them yet.

So much for the actors;—for secret machinery,
Traps, and deceptions, and shifting of scenery,
Y—rm—th and Cum are the best we can find,
To transact all that trickery business behind.
The former's employ'd too to teach us French jigs,
Keep the whiskers in curl, and look after the wigs.

In taking my leave now, I've only to say,
A few *Seats in the House*, not as yet sold away,
May be had of the Manager, Pat C—stl—r—gh.

[1] Lord C—stl—r—gh.

[2] He had recently been appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE SALE OF THE TOOLS.

Instrumenta regni.—Tacitus.

Here's a choice set of Tools for you, Ge'mmen and Ladies,
They'll fit you quite handy, whatever your trade is;
(Except it be *Cabinet-making*;—no doubt,
In that delicate service they're rather worn out;
Though their owner, bright youth! if he'd had his own will,
Would have bungled away with them joyously still.)
You can see they've been pretty well *hack'd*—and alack!
What tool is there job after job will not hack?
Their edge is but dullish, it must be confess'd,
And their temper, like E——nb'r——h's, none of the best;
But you'll find them good hard-working Tools, upon trying,
Wer't but for their *brass*, they are well worth the buying;
They're famous for making *blinds*, *sliders*, and *screens*,
And are, some of them, excellent *turning* machines.

The first Tool I'll put up (they call it a *Chancellor*)
Heavy concern to both purchaser *and* seller.
Though made of pig iron, yet worthy of note 'tis,
'Tis ready to *melt* at a half minute's notice.[3]
Who bids? Gentle buyer! 'twill turn as thou shapest;
'Twill make a good thumb-screw to torture a Papist;
Or else a cramp-iron, to stick in the wall
Of some church that old women are fearful will fall;
Or better, perhaps, (for I'm guessing at random,)
A heavy *drag-chain* for some Lawyer's old *Tandem*.
Will nobody bid? It is cheap, I am sure, Sir—
Once, twice,—going, going,—thrice, gone!—it is yours, Sir.
To pay ready money you sha'n't be distrest,
As a *bill* at *long date* suits the Chancellor best.

Come, where's the next Tool?—Oh! 'tis here in a trice—
This implement, Ge'mmen, at first was a *Vice*;
(A tenacious and close sort of tool, that will let
Nothing out of its grasp it once happens to get;)

[3] An allusion to Lord Eld—n's lachrymose tendencies.

But it since has receiv'd a new coating of *Tin*,
Bright enough for a Prince to behold himself in.
Come, what shall we say for it? briskly! bid on,
We'll the sooner get rid of it—going—quite gone.
God be with it, such tools, if not quickly knock'd down,
Might at last cost their owner—how much? why, a *Crown!*

The next Tool I'll set up has hardly had handsel or
Trial as yet, and is *also* a Chancellor—
Such dull things as these should be sold by the gross;
Yet, dull as it is, 'twill be found to *shave close*,
And like *other* close shavers, some courage to gather,
This *blade* first began by a flourish on *leather*.[1]
You shall have it for nothing—then, marvel with me
At the terrible *tinkering* work there must be,
Where a Tool such as this is (I'll leave you to judge it)
Is placed by ill luck at the top of *the Budget!*

LITTLE MAN AND LITTLE SOUL.

A BALLAD.

To the tune of "There was a little man, and he woo'd a little maid."

DEDICATED TO THE RT. HON. CH—RL—S ABB—T.

Arcades ambo
Et *cant*-are pares.

1813.

THERE was a little Man, and he had a little Soul,
And he said, "Little Soul, let us try, try, try,
"Whether it's within our reach
"To make up a little Speech,
"Just between little you and little I, I, I,
"Just between little you and little I!"—

Then said his little Soul,
Peeping from her little hole,
"I protest, little Man, you are stout, stout, stout,
"But, if it's not uncivil,
"Pray tell me what the devil
"Must our little, little speech be about, bout, bout,
"Must our little, little speech be about?"

The little Man look'd big
With th' assistance of his wig,
And he call'd his little Soul to order, order, order,
Till she fear'd he'd make her jog in
To gaol, like Thomas Croggan,
(As she wasn't Duke or Earl) to reward her, ward her, ward her,
As she wasn't Duke or Earl, to reward her.

The little Man then spoke,
"Little Soul, it is no joke,
"For as sure as J—cky F—ll—r loves a sup, sup, sup,
"I will tell the Prince and People
"What I think of Church and Steeple,
"And my little patent plan to prop them up, up, up,
"And my little patent plan to prop them up."

Away then, cheek by jowl,
Little man and little Soul
Went and spoke their little speech to a tittle, tittle, tittle,
And the world all declare
That this priggish little pair
Never yet in all their lives look'd so little, little, little,
Never yet in all their lives look'd so little!

REINFORCEMENTS FOR LORD WELLINGTON.

Suosque tibi commendat Troja Penates
Hos cape fatorum comites. VIRGIL.

1813.

As recruits in these times are not easily got,
And the Marshal *must* have them—pray, why should we not,
As the last and, I grant it, the worst of our loans to him,
Ship off the Ministry, body and bones to him?
There's not in all England, I'd venture to swear,
Any men we could half so conveniently spare;
And, though they've been helping the French for years past,
We may thus make them useful to England at last.
C—stl—r—gh in our sieges might save some disgraces,
Being us'd to the *taking* and *keeping* of *places;*
And Volunteer C—nn—g, still ready for joining,
Might show off his talent for sly *undermining.*
Could the Household but spare us its glory and pride,
Old H—df—t at *horn-works* again might be tried,

[1] "Of the taxes proposed by Mr. Vansittart, that principally opposed in Parliament was the additional duty on leather."—*Ann. Register.*

And the Ch—f J—st—e make a *bold charge* at his side:
While V—ns—tt—t could victual the troops *upon tick*,
And the Doctor look after the baggage and sick.

Nay, I do not see why the great R—g—t himself
Should, in times such as these, stay at home on the shelf:
Though through narrow defiles he's not fitted to pass,
Yet who could resist, if he bore down *en masse?*
And though oft, of an evening, perhaps he might prove,
Like our Spanish confed'rates, "unable to move,"[1]
Yet there's *one* thing in war of advantage unbounded,
Which is, that he could not with ease be *surrounded*.

In my next I shall sing of their arms and equipment;
At present no more, but—good luck to the shipment!

HORACE, ODE I. LIB. III.

A FRAGMENT.

Odi profanum vulgus et arceo:
Favete linguis: carmina non prius
Audita Musarum sacerdos
Virginibus puerisque canto.
Regum timendorum in proprios greges,
Reges in ipsos imperium est Jovis.

1813.

I HATE thee, oh, Mob, as my Lady hates delf;
To Sir Francis I'll give up thy claps and thy hisses,
Leave old Magna Charta to shift for itself,
And, like G—dw—n, write books for young masters and misses.
Oh! it *is* not high rank that can make the heart merry,
Even monarchs themselves are not free from mishap:
Though the Lords of Westphalia must quake before Jerry,
Poor Jerry himself has to quake before Nap.
* * * * * *

[1] The character given to the Spanish soldier, in Sir John Murray's memorable despatch.

HORACE, ODE XXXVIII. LIB. I.

A FRAGMENT.

Persicos odi, puer, adparatus;
Displicent nexæ philyra coronæ;
Mitte sectari, Rosa *quo locorum*
Sera moretur.

TRANSLATED BY A TREASURY CLERK, WHILE WAITING DINNER FOR THE RIGHT HON. G—RGE R—SE.

Boy, tell the Cook that I hate all nick-nackeries,
Fricassees, vol-au-vents, puffs, and gim-crackeries—
Six by the Horse-Guards!—old Georgy is late—
But come—lay the table-cloth—zounds! do not wait,
Nor stop to inquire, while the dinner is staying,
At which of his places Old R—e is delaying![2]

IMPROMPTU.

UPON BEING OBLIGED TO LEAVE A PLEASANT PARTY, FROM THE WANT OF A PAIR OF BREECHES TO DRESS FOR DINNER IN.

1810.

BETWEEN Adam and me the great difference is,
Though a paradise each has been forc'd to resign,
That he never wore breeches, till turn'd out of his,
While, for want of my breeches, I'm banish'd from mine.

LORD WELLINGTON AND THE MINISTERS.

1813.

So gently in peace Alcibiades smil'd,
While in battle he shone forth so terribly grand,
That the emblem they grav'd on his seal, was a child
With a thunderbolt plac'd in its innocent hand.

Oh Wellington, long as such Ministers wield
Your magnificent arm, the same emblem will do;
For while *they're* in the Council and *you* in the Field,
We've the *babies* in *them*, and the *thunder* in *you!*

[2] The literal closeness of the version here cannot but be admired. The Translator has added a long, erudite, and flowery note upon *Roses*, of which I can merely give a specimen at present. In the first place, he ransacks the *Rosarium Politicum* of the Persian poet Sadi, with the hope of finding some *Political* Roses, to match the gentleman in the text—but in vain: he then tells us that Cicero accused Verres of reposing upon a cushion "Melitensi *rosâ fartum*," which, from the odd mixture of words, he supposes to be a kind of *Irish* Bed of Roses, like Lord Castlereagh's. The learned Clerk next favours us with some remarks upon a well-known punning epitaph on fair Rosamond, and expresses a most loyal hope, that, if "Rosa munda" mean "a Rose with clean hands" it may be found applicable to the Right Honourable Rose in question. He then dwells at some length upon the "Rosa *aurea*," which, though descriptive, in one sense, of the old Treasury Statesman, yet, as being consecrated and worn by the Pope, must, of course, not be brought into the same atmosphere with him. Lastly, in reference to the words "*old* Rose," he winds up with the pathetic lamentation of the Poet "consenuisse Rosas." The whole note, indeed, shows a knowledge of Roses, that is quite edifying.

IRISH MELODIES.

TO

THE MARCHIONESS DOWAGER OF DONEGAL.

It is now many years since, in a Letter prefixed to the Third Number of the Irish Melodies, I had the pleasure of inscribing the Poems of that work to your Ladyship, as to one whose character reflected honour on the country to which they relate, and whose friendship had long been the pride and happiness of their Author. With the same feelings of affection and respect, confirmed if not increased by the experience of every succeeding year, I now place those Poems in their present new form under your protection, and am,

With perfect sincerity,
Your Ladyship's ever attached Friend,
THOMAS MOORE.

PREFACE.

Though an edition of the Poetry of the Irish Melodies, separate from the Music, has long been called for, yet, having, for many reasons, a strong objection to this sort of divorce, I should with difficulty have consented to a disunion of the words from the airs, had it depended solely upon me to keep them quietly and indissolubly together. But, besides the various shapes in which these, as well as my other lyrical writings, have been published throughout America, they are included, of course, in all the editions of my works printed on the Continent, and have also appeared, in a volume full of typographical errors, in Dublin. I have therefore readily acceded to the wish expressed by the Proprietor of the Irish Melodies, for a revised and complete edition of the poetry of the Work, though well aware that my verses must lose even more than the "*animæ dimidium*," in being detached from the beautiful airs to which it was their good fortune to be associated.

The Advertisements which were prefixed to the different numbers, the Prefatory Letter upon Music, &c. will be found in an Appendix at the end of the Melodies.

IRISH MELODIES.

GO WHERE GLORY WAITS THEE.

Go where glory waits thee,
But, while fame elates thee,
Oh! still remember me.
When the praise thou meetest
To thine ear is sweetest,
Oh! then remember me.
Other arms may press thee,
Dearer friends caress thee,
All the joys that bless thee,
Sweeter far may be;
But when friends are nearest,
And when joys are dearest,
Oh! then remember me!

When, at eve, thou rovest
By the star thou lovest,
Oh! then remember me.
Think, when home returning,
Bright we've seen it burning,
Oh! thus remember me.
Oft as summer closes,
When thine eye reposes
On its ling'ring roses,
Once so lov'd by thee,
Think of her who wove them,
Her who made thee love them,
Oh! then remember me.

When, around thee dying,
Autumn leaves are lying,
Oh! then remember me.

And, at night, when gazing
On the gay hearth blazing,
Oh! still remember me.
Then should music, stealing
All the soul of feeling,
To thy heart appealing,
Draw one tear from thee;
Then let memory bring thee
Strains I us'd to sing thee,—
Oh! then remember me.

WAR SONG.

REMEMBER THE GLORIES OF BRIEN THE BRAVE.[1]

Remember the glories of Brien the brave,
Tho' the days of the hero are o'er;
Tho' lost to Mononia[2], and cold in the grave,
He returns to Kinkora[3] no more.
That star of the field, which so often hath pour'd
Its beam on the battle, is set;
But enough of its glory remains on each sword,
To light us to victory yet.

Mononia! when Nature embellish'd the tint
Of thy fields, and thy mountains so fair,
Did she ever intend that a tyrant should print
The footstep of slavery there?
No! Freedom, whose smile we shall never resign,
Go, tell our invaders, the Danes,
That 'tis sweeter to bleed for an age at thy shrine,
Than to sleep but a moment in chains.

Forget not our wounded companions, who stood[4]
In the day of distress by our side;
While the moss of the valley grew red with their blood,
They stirr'd not, but conquer'd and died.
That sun which now blesses our arms with his light,
Saw them fall upon Ossory's plain;—
Oh! let him not blush, when he leaves us to-night,
To find that they fell there in vain.

[1] Brien Borombe, the great monarch of Ireland, who was killed at the battle of Clontarf, in the beginning of the 11th century, after having defeated the Danes in twenty-five engagements.

[2] Munster.

[3] The palace of Brien.

[4] This alludes to an interesting circumstance related of the Dalgais, the favourite troops of Brien, when they were interrupted in their return from the battle of Clontarf, by Fitzpatrick, prince of Ossory. The wounded men entreated that they might be allowed to fight with the rest.—"*Let stakes* (they said) *be stuck in the ground, and suffer each of us, tied to and supported by one of these stakes, to be placed in his rank by the side of a sound man.*" "Between seven and eight hundred wounded men (adds O'Halloran) pale, emaciated, and supported in this manner, appeared mixed with the foremost of the troops;—never was such another sight exhibited."—*History of Ireland*, book xii. chap. i.

ERIN! THE TEAR AND THE SMILE IN THINE EYES.

Erin, the tear and the smile in thine eyes,
Blend like the rainbow that hangs in thy skies!
Shining through sorrow's stream,
Saddening through pleasure's beam,
Thy suns with doubtful gleam,
Weep while they rise.

Erin, thy silent tear never shall cease,
Erin, thy languid smile ne'er shall increase,
Till, like the rainbow's light,
Thy various tints unite,
And form in heaven's sight
One arch of peace!

OH! BREATHE NOT HIS NAME.

Oh! breathe not his name, let it sleep in the shade,
Where cold and unhonour'd his relics are laid:
Sad, silent, and dark, be the tears that we shed,
As the night-dew that falls on the grass o'er his head.

But the night-dew that falls, though in silence it weeps,
Shall brighten with verdure the grave where he sleeps;
And the tear that we shed, though in secret it rolls,
Shall long keep his memory green in our souls.

WHEN HE, WHO ADORES THEE.

When he, who adores thee, has left but the name
Of his fault and his sorrows behind,
Oh! say wilt thou weep, when they darken the fame
Of a life that for thee was resign'd?
Yes, weep, and however my foes may condemn,
Thy tears shall efface their decree;
For Heaven can witness, though guilty to them,
I have been but too faithful to thee.

With thee were the dreams of my earliest love;
Every thought of my reason was thine;
In my last humble prayer to the Spirit above,
Thy name shall be mingled with mine.
Oh! blest are the lovers and friends who shall live
The days of thy glory to see;
But the next dearest blessing that Heaven can give
Is the pride of thus dying for thee.

THE HARP THAT ONCE THROUGH TARA'S HALLS.

The harp that once through Tara's halls
The soul of music shed,
Now hangs as mute on Tara's walls,
As if that soul were fled.—
So sleeps the pride of former days,
So glory's thrill is o'er,
And hearts, that once beat high for praise,
Now feel that pulse no more.

No more to chiefs and ladies bright
The harp of Tara swells;
The chord alone, that breaks at night,
Its tale of ruin tells.
Thus Freedom now so seldom wakes,
The only throb she gives,
Is when some heart indignant breaks,
To show that still she lives.

FLY NOT YET.

Fly not yet, 'tis just the hour,
When pleasure, like the midnight flower
That scorns the eye of vulgar light,
Begins to bloom for sons of night,
And maids who love the moon.
'Twas but to bless these hours of shade
That beauty and the moon were made;
'Tis then their soft attractions glowing
Set the tides and goblets flowing.
Oh! stay,—Oh! stay,—
Joy so seldom weaves a chain
Like this to-night, that oh! 'tis pain
To break its links so soon.

Fly not yet, the fount that play'd
In times of old through Ammon's shade,[1]
Though icy cold by day it ran,
Yet still, like souls of mirth, began
To burn when night was near.
And thus, should woman's heart and looks
At noon be cold as winter brooks,
Nor kindle till the night, returning,
Brings their genial hour for burning.
Oh! stay,—Oh! stay,—
When did morning ever break,
And find such beaming eyes awake
As those that sparkle here?

OH! THINK NOT MY SPIRITS ARE ALWAYS AS LIGHT.

Oh! think not my spirits are always as light,
And as free from a pang as they seem to you now;
Nor expect that the heart beaming smile of to-night
Will return with to-morrow to brighten my brow.
No:—life is a waste of wearisome hours,
Which seldom the rose of enjoyment adorns;
And the heart that is soonest awake to the flowers,
Is always the first to be touch'd by the thorns.
But send round the bowl, and be happy awhile—
May we never meet worse, in our pilgrimage here,
Than the tear that enjoyment may gild with a smile,
And the smile that compassion can turn to a tear.

The thread of our life would be dark, Heaven knows!
If it were not with friendship and love intertwin'd;
And I care not how soon I may sink to repose,
When these blessings shall cease to be dear to my mind.
But they who have lov'd the fondest, the purest,
Too often have wept o'er the dream they believ'd;
And the heart that has slumber'd in friendship securest,
Is happy indeed if 'twas never deceiv'd.
But send round the bowl; while a relic of truth
Is in man or in woman, this prayer shall be mine,—
That the sunshine of love may illumine our youth,
And the moonlight of friendship console our decline.

[1] Solis Fons, near the Temple of Ammon.

THO' THE LAST GLIMPSE OF ERIN WITH SORROW I SEE.

THO' the last glimpse of Erin with sorrow I see,
Yet wherever thou art shall seem Erin to me;
In exile thy bosom shall still be my home,
And thine eyes make my climate wherever we roam.

To the gloom of some desert or cold rocky shore,
Where the eye of the stranger can haunt us no more,
I will fly with my Coulin, and think the rough wind
Less rude than the foes we leave frowning behind.

And I'll gaze on thy gold hair as graceful it wreathes,
And hang o'er thy soft harp, as wildly it breathes;
Nor dread that the cold-hearted Saxon will tear
One chord from that harp, or one lock from that hair.[1]

RICH AND RARE WERE THE GEMS SHE WORE.[2]

RICH and rare were the gems she wore,
And a bright gold ring on her wand she bore;
But oh! her beauty was far beyond
Her sparkling gems, or snow-white wand.

"Lady! dost thou not fear to stray,
"So lone and lovely through this bleak way?
"Are Erin's sons so good or so cold,
"As not to be tempted by woman or gold?"

"Sir Knight! I feel not the least alarm,
"No son of Erin will offer me harm:—
"For though they love woman and golden store,
"Sir Knight! they love honour and virtue more!"

On she went, and her maiden smile
In safety lighted her round the Green Isle;
And blest for ever is she who relied
Upon Erin's honour and Erin's pride.

AS A BEAM O'ER THE FACE OF THE WATERS MAY GLOW.

As a beam o'er the face of the waters may glow
While the tide runs in darkness and coldness below,
So the cheek may be ting'd with a warm sunny smile,
Though the cold heart to ruin runs darkly the while.

One fatal remembrance, one sorrow that throws
Its bleak shade alike o'er our joys and our woes,
To which life nothing darker or brighter can bring,
For which joy has no balm and affliction no sting—

Oh! this thought in the midst of enjoyment will stay,
Like a dead, leafless branch in the summer's bright ray;
The beams of the warm sun play round it in vain,
It may smile in his light, but it blooms not again.

THE MEETING OF THE WATERS.[3]

THERE is not in the wide world a valley so sweet
As that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet;[4]
Oh! the last rays of feeling and life must depart,
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart.

Yet it *was* not that Nature had shed o'er the scene
Her purest of crystal and brightest of green;

[1] "In the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Henry VIII. an Act was made respecting the habits, and dress in general, of the Irish, whereby all persons were restrained from being shorn or shaven above the ears, or from wearing Glibbes, or *Coulins* (long locks), on their heads, or hair on their upper lip, called Crommeal. On this occasion a song was written by one of our bards, in which an Irish virgin is made to give the preference to her dear *Coulin* (or the youth with the flowing locks) to all strangers (by which the English were meant), or those who wore their habits. Of this song, the air alone has reached us, and is universally admired."—*Walker's Historical Memoirs of Irish Bards*, p. 134. Mr. Walker informs us also, that, about the same period, there were some harsh measures taken against the Irish Minstrels.

[2] This ballad is founded upon the following anecdote:—"The people were inspired with such a spirit of honour, virtue, and religion, by the great example of Brien, and by his excellent administration, that, as a proof of it, we are informed that a young lady of great beauty, adorned with jewels and a costly dress, undertook a journey alone, from one end of the kingdom to the other, with a wand only in her hand, at the top of which was a ring of exceeding great value; and such an impression had the laws and government of this Monarch made on the minds of all the people, that no attempt was made upon her honour, nor was she robbed of her clothes or jewels."—"*Warner's History of Ireland*, vol. i. book x.

[3] "The Meeting of the Waters" forms a part of that beautiful scenery which lies between Rathdrum and Arklow, in the county of Wicklow, and these lines were suggested by a visit to this romantic spot, in the summer of the year 1807.

[4] The rivers Avon and Avoca.

'Twas *not* her soft magic of streamlet or hill,
Oh! no,—it was something more exquisite still.

'Twas that friends, the belov'd of my bosom, were near,
Who made every dear scene of enchantment more dear,
And who felt how the best charms of nature improve,
When we see them reflected from looks that we love.

Sweet vale of Avoca! how calm could I rest
In thy bosom of shade, with the friends I love best,
Where the storms that we feel in this cold world should cease,
And our hearts, like thy waters, be mingled in peace.

HOW DEAR TO ME THE HOUR.

How dear to me the hour when daylight dies,
And sunbeams melt along the silent sea;
For then sweet dreams of other days arise,
And memory breathes her vesper sigh to thee.

And, as I watch the line of light, that plays
Along the smooth wave tow'rd the burning west,
I long to tread that golden path of rays,
And think 'twould lead to some bright isle of rest.

TAKE BACK THE VIRGIN PAGE.

WRITTEN ON RETURNING A BLANK BOOK.

Take back the virgin page,
White and unwritten still;
Some hand, more calm and sage,
The leaf must fill.
Thoughts come, as pure as light,
Pure as even *you* require:
But, oh! each word I write
Love turns to fire.

Yet let me keep the book:
Oft shall my heart renew,
When on its leaves I look,
Dear thoughts of you.
Like you, 'tis fair and bright;
Like you, too bright and fair
To let wild passion write
One wrong wish there.

Haply, when from those eyes
Far, far away I roam,
Should calmer thoughts arise
Tow'rds you and home;
Fancy may trace some line,
Worthy those eyes to meet,
Thoughts that not burn, but shine,
Pure, calm, and sweet.

And as, o'er ocean far,
Seamen their records keep,
Led by some hidden star
Through the cold deep;
So may the words I write
Tell thro' what storms I stray—
You still the unseen light,
Guiding my way.

THE LEGACY.

When in death I shall calmly recline,
O bear my heart to my mistress dear;
Tell her it liv'd upon smiles and wine
Of the brightest hue, while it linger'd here.
Bid her not shed one tear of sorrow
To sully a heart so brilliant and light;
But balmy drops of the red grape borrow,
To bathe the relic from morn till night.

When the light of my song is o'er,
Then take my harp to your ancient hall;
Hang it up at that friendly door,
Where weary travellers love to call.[1]
Then if some bard, who roams forsaken,
Revive its soft note in passing along,
Oh! let one thought of its master waken
Your warmest smile for the child of song.

Keep this cup, which is now o'erflowing,
To grace your revel, when I'm at rest;
Never, oh! never its balm bestowing
On lips that beauty hath seldom blest.
But when some warm devoted lover
To her he adores shall bathe its brim,
Then, then my spirit around shall hover,
And hallow each drop that foams for him.

[1] "In every house was one or two harps, free to all travellers, who were the more caressed, the more they excelled in music."—*O'Halloran.*

HOW OFT HAS THE BENSHEE CRIED.

How oft has the Benshee cried,
How oft has death untied
Bright links that Glory wove,
Sweet bonds entwin'd by Love!
Peace to each manly soul that sleepeth;
Rest to each faithful eye that weepeth;
Long may the fair and brave
Sigh o'er the hero's grave.

We're fall'n upon gloomy days![1]
Star after star decays,
Every bright name, that shed
Light o'er the land, is fled.
Dark falls the tear of him who mourneth
Lost joy, or hope that ne'er returneth;
But brightly flows the tear,
Wept o'er a hero's bier.

Quench'd are our beacon lights—
Thou, of the Hundred Fights![2]
Thou, on whose burning tongue
Truth, peace, and freedom hung![3]
Both mute,—but long as valour shineth,
Or mercy's soul at war repineth,
So long shall Erin's pride
Tell how they liv'd and died.

WE MAY ROAM THROUGH THIS WORLD.

We may roam through this world, like a child at a feast,
Who but sips of a sweet, and then flies to the rest;
And, when pleasure begins to grow dull in the east,
We may order our wings, and be off to the west;
But if hearts that feel, and eyes that smile,
Are the dearest gifts that heaven supplies,
We never need leave our own green isle,
For sensitive hearts, and for sun-bright eyes.
Then remember, wherever your goblet is crown'd,
Thro' this world, whether eastward or westward you roam,
When a cup to the smile of dear woman goes round,
Oh! remember the smile which adorns her at home.

In England, the garden of Beauty is kept
By a dragon of prudery placed within call;
But so oft this unamiable dragon has slept,
That the garden's but carelessly watch'd after all.
Oh! they want the wild sweet-briery fence,
Which round the flowers of Erin dwells;
Which warns the touch, while winning the sense,
Nor charms us least when it most repels.
Then remember, wherever your goblet is crown'd,
Thro' this world, whether eastward or westward you roam,
When a cup to the smile of dear woman goes round,
Oh! remember the smile that adorns her at home.

In France, when the heart of a woman sets sail,
On the ocean of wedlock its fortune to try,
Love seldom goes far in a vessel so frail,
But just pilots her off, and then bids her good-bye.
While the daughters of Erin keep the boy,
Ever smiling beside his faithful oar,
Through billows of woe, and beams of joy,
The same as he look'd when he left the shore.
Then remember, wherever your goblet is crown'd,
Thro' this world, whether eastward or westward you roam,
When a cup to the smile of dear woman goes round,
Oh! remember the smile that adorns her at home.

EVELEEN'S BOWER.

Oh! weep for the hour,
When to Eveleen's bower
The Lord of the Valley with false vows came;
The moon hid her light
From the heavens that night,
And wept behind her clouds o'er the maiden's shame.

The clouds pass'd soon
From the chaste cold moon,
And heaven smil'd again with her vestal flame;
But none will see the day,
When the clouds shall pass away,
Which that dark hour left upon Eveleen's fame.

[1] I have endeavoured here, without losing that Irish character, which it is my object to preserve throughout this work, to allude to the sad and ominous fatality, by which England has been deprived of so many great and good men, at a moment when she most requires all the aids of talent and integrity.

[2] This designation, which has been before applied to Lord Nelson, is the title given to a celebrated Irish Hero, in a Poem by O'Guive, the bard of O'Niel, which is quoted in the "Philosophical Survey of the South of Ireland," page 433. "Con, of the Hundred Fights, sleep in thy grass-grown tomb, and upbraid not our defeats with thy victories."

[3] Fox, "Romanorum ultimus."

The white snow lay
On the narrow path-way,
When the Lord of the Valley crost over the moor;
And many a deep print
On the white snow's tint
Show'd the track of his footstep to Eveleen's door.

The next sun's ray
Soon melted away
Every trace on the path where the false Lord came;
But there's a light above,
Which alone can remove
That stain upon the snow of fair Eveleen's fame.

LET ERIN REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD.

Let Erin remember the days of old,
Ere her faithless sons betray'd her;
When Malachi wore the collar of gold,[1]
Which he won from her proud invader,
When her kings, with standard of green unfurl'd,
Led the Red-Branch Knights to danger[2];
Ere the emerald gem of the western world
Was set in the crown of a stranger.

On Lough Neagh's bank, as the fisherman strays,
When the clear cold eve's declining,
He sees the round towers of other days
In the wave beneath him shining;
Thus shall memory often, in dreams sublime,
Catch a glimpse of the days that are over;
Thus, sighing, look through the waves of time
For the long faded glories they cover.[3]

THE SONG OF FIONNUALA.[4]

Silent, oh Moyle, be the roar of thy water,
Break not, ye breezes, your chain of repose,
While, murmuring mournfully, Lir's lonely daughter
Tells to the night-star her tale of woes.
When shall the swan, her death-note singing,
Sleep, with wings in darkness furl'd?
When will heaven, its sweet bell ringing,
Call my spirit from this stormy world?

Sadly, oh Moyle, to thy winter-wave weeping,
Fate bids me languish long ages away;
Yet still in her darkness doth Erin lie sleeping,
Still doth the pure light its dawning delay.
When will that day-star, mildly springing,
Warm our isle with peace and love?
When will heaven, its sweet bell ringing,
Call my spirit to the fields above?

COME, SEND ROUND THE WINE.

Come, send round the wine, and leave points of belief
To simpleton sages, and reasoning fools;
This moment's a flower too fair and brief,
To be wither'd and stain'd by the dust of the schools.
Your glass may be purple, and mine may be blue,
But, while they are fill'd from the same bright bowl,
The fool, who would quarrel for diff'rence of hue,
Deserves not the comfort they shed o'er the soul.

[1] "This brought on an encounter between Malachi (the Monarch of Ireland in the tenth century) and the Danes, in which Malachi defeated two of their champions, whom he encountered successively, hand to hand, taking a collar of gold from the neck of one, and carrying off the sword of the other, as trophies of his victory." — *Warner's History of Ireland*, vol. i. book ix.

[2] "Military orders of knights were very early established in Ireland; long before the birth of Christ we find an hereditary order of Chivalry in Ulster, called *Curaidhe na Craiobhe ruadh*, or the Knights of the Red Branch, from their chief seat in Emania, adjoining to the palace of the Ulster kings, called *Teagh na Craiobhe ruadh*, or the Academy of the Red Branch; and contiguous to which was a large hospital, founded for the sick knights and soldiers, called *Bronbhearg*, or the House of the Sorrowful Soldier." — *O'Halloran's Introduction, &c.*, part i. chap. 5.

[3] It was an old tradition, in the time of Giraldus, that Lough Neagh had been originally a fountain, by whose sudden overflowing the country was inundated, and a whole region, like the Atlantis of Plato, overwhelmed. He says that the fishermen, in clear weather, used to point out to strangers the tall ecclesiastical towers under the water. *Piscatores aquæ illius turres ecclesiasticas, quæ more patriæ arctæ sunt et altæ, nécnon et rotundæ, sub undis manifeste sereno tempore conspiciunt, et extraneis transeuntibus, reique causas admirantibus, frequenter ostendunt.* — Topogr. Hib. dist. 2. c. 9.

[4] To make this story intelligible in a song would require a much greater number of verses than any one is authorised to inflict upon an audience at once; the reader must therefore be content to learn, in a note, that Fionnuala, the daughter of Lir, was, by some supernatural power, transformed into a swan, and condemned to wander, for many hundred years, over certain lakes and rivers in Ireland, till the coming of Christianity, when the first sound of the mass-bell was to be the signal of her release. — I found this fanciful fiction among some manuscript translations from the Irish, which were begun under the direction of that enlightened friend of Ireland, the late Countess of Moira.

Shall I ask the brave soldier, who fights by my side
In the cause of mankind, if our creeds agree?
Shall I give up the friend I have valued and tried,
If he kneel not before the same altar with me?
From the heretic girl of my soul should I fly,
To seek somewhere else a more orthodox kiss?
No: perish the hearts, and the laws that try
Truth, valour, or love, by a standard like this!

SUBLIME WAS THE WARNING.

Sublime was the warning that Liberty spoke,
And grand was the moment when Spaniards awoke
Into life and revenge from the conqueror's chain.
Oh, Liberty! let not this spirit have rest,
Till it move, like a breeze, o'er the waves of the west—
Give the light of your look to each sorrowing spot,
Nor, oh, be the shamrock of Erin forgot
While you add to your garland the Olive of Spain!

If the fame of our fathers, bequeath'd with their rights,
Give to country its charm, and to home its delights,
If deceit be a wound, and suspicion a stain,
Then, ye men of Iberia, our cause is the same!
And oh! may his tomb want a tier and a name,
Who would ask for a nobler, a holier death,
Than to turn his last sigh into victory's breath,
For the Shamrock of Erin and Olive of Spain!

Ye Blakes and O'Donnels, whose fathers resign'd
The green hills of their youth, among strangers to find
That repose which, at home, they had sigh'd for in vain,
Join, join in our hope that the flame, which you light,
May be felt yet in Erin, as calm, and as bright,
And forgive even Albion while blushing she draws,
Like a truant, her sword, in the long-slighted cause
Of the Shamrock of Erin and Olive of Spain!

God prosper the cause!—oh, it cannot but thrive,
While the pulse of one patriot heart is alive,
Its devotion to feel, and its rights to maintain;
Then, how sainted by sorrow, its martyrs will die!
The finger of glory shall point where they lie;
While, far from the footstep of coward or slave,
The young spirit of Freedom shall shelter their grave
Beneath Shamrocks of Erin and Olives of Spain!

BELIEVE ME, IF ALL THOSE ENDEARING YOUNG CHARMS.

Believe me, if all those endearing young charms,
Which I gaze on so fondly to-day,
Were to change by to-morrow, and fleet in my arms,
Like fairy-gifts fading away,
Thou wouldst still be ador'd, as this moment thou art,
Let thy loveliness fade as it will,
And around the dear ruin each wish of my heart
Would entwine itself verdantly still.

It is not while beauty and youth are thine own,
And thy cheeks unprofan'd by a tear
That the fervour and faith of a soul can be known,
To which time will but make thee more dear;
No, the heart that has truly lov'd never forgets,
But as truly loves on to the close,
As the sun-flower turns on her god, when he sets,
The same look which she turn'd when he rose.

ERIN, OH ERIN.

Like the bright lamp, that shone in Kildare's holy fane,[1]
And burn'd thro' long ages of darkness and storm,
Is the heart that sorrows have frown'd on in vain,
Whose spirit outlives them, unfading and warm.
Erin, oh Erin, thus bright thro' the tears
Of a long night of bondage, thy spirit appears.

The nations have fallen, and thou still art young,
Thy sun is but rising, when others are set;
And tho' slavery's cloud o'er thy morning hath hung
The full noon of freedom shall beam round thee yet.
Erin, oh Erin, tho' long in the shade,
Thy star will shine out when the proudest shall fade.

[1] The inextinguishable fire of St. Bridget, at Kildare, which Giraldus mentions:—"Apud Kildariam occurrit ignis Sanctæ Brigidæ, quem inextinguibilem vocant; non quod extingui non possit, sed quod tam solicite moniales et sanctæ mulieres ignem, suppetente materia, fovent et nutriunt, ut a tempore virginis per tot annorum curricula semper mansit inextinctus."—*Girald. Camb. de Mirabil. Hibern.* dist. 2. c. 34.

Unchill'd by the rain, and unwak'd by the wind,
The lily lies sleeping thro' winter's cold hour,
Till Spring's light touch her fetters unbind,
And daylight and liberty bless the young flower.[1]
Thus Erin, oh Erin, *thy* winter is past,
And the hope that liv'd thro' it shall blossom at last.

DRINK TO HER.

Drink to her, who long
Hath wak'd the poet's sigh,
The girl, who gave to song
What gold could never buy.
Oh! woman's heart was made
For minstrel hands alone;
By other fingers play'd,
It yields not half the tone.
Then here's to her, who long
Hath wak'd the poet's sigh,
The girl who gave to song
What gold could never buy.

At Beauty's door of glass,
When Wealth and Wit once stood,
They ask'd her, "*which* might pass?"
She answer'd, "he, who could."
With golden key Wealth thought
To pass—but 'twould not do:
While Wit a diamond brought,
Which cut his bright way through.
So here's to her, who long
Hath wak'd the poet's sigh,
The girl, who gave to song
What gold could never buy.

The love that seeks a home
Where wealth or grandeur shines,
Is like the gloomy gnome,
That dwells in dark gold mines.
But oh! the poet's love
Can boast a brighter sphere;
Its native home's above,
Tho' woman keeps it here.

Then drink to her, who long
Hath wak'd the poet's sigh,
The girl, who gave to song
What gold could never buy.

OH! BLAME NOT THE BARD.[2]

Oh! blame not the bard, if he fly to the bowers,
Where Pleasure lies, carelessly smiling at Fame;
He was born for much more, and in happier hours
His soul might have burn'd with a holier flame.
The string, that now languishes loose o'er the lyre,
Might have bent a proud bow to the warrior's dart;[3]
And the lip, which now breathes but the song of desire,
Might have pour'd the full tide of a patriot's heart.

But alas for his country!—her pride is gone by,
And that spirit is broken, which never would bend;
O'er the ruin her children in secret must sigh,
For 'tis treason to love her, and death to defend.
Unpriz'd are her sons, till they've learn'd to betray;
Undistinguish'd they live, if they shame not their sires;
And the torch, that would light them thro' dignity's way,
Must be caught from the pile, where their country expires.

Then blame not the bard, if in pleasure's soft dream,
He should try to forget, what he never can heal:
Oh! give but a hope—let a vista but gleam
Through the gloom of his country, and mark how he'll feel!
That instant, his heart at her shrine would lay down
Every passion it nurs'd, every bliss it ador'd;
While the myrtle, now idly entwin'd with his crown,
Like the wreath of Harmodius, should cover his sword.[4]

[1] *Mrs. H. Tighe, in her exquisite lines on the Lily, has* applied this image to a still more important object.

[2] We may suppose this apology to have been uttered by one of those wandering bards, whom Spenser so severely, and, perhaps, truly, describes in his State of Ireland, and whose poems, he tells us, "were sprinkled with some pretty flowers of their natural device, which have good grace and comeliness unto them, the which it is great pity to see abused to the gracing of wickedness and vice, which, with good usage, would serve to adorn and beautify virtue."

[3] *It is conjectured* by Wormius, that the name of Ireland is derived from *Yr*, the Runic for a *bow*, in the use of which weapon the Irish were once very expert. This derivation is certainly more creditable to us than the following: "So that Ireland, called the land of *Ire*, from the constant broils therein for 400 years, was now become the land of concord."—*Lloyd's State Worthies*, art. *The Lord Grandison*.

[4] See the Hymn, attributed to Alcæus, Εν μυρτου κλαδι το ξιφος φορησω—"I will carry my sword, hidden in myrtles, like Harmodius, and Aristogiton," &c.

But tho' glory be gone, and tho' hope fade away,
Thy name, lov'd Erin, shall live in his songs;
Not ev'n in the hour, when his heart is most gay,
Will he lose the remembrance of thee and thy wrongs.
The stranger shall hear thy lament on his plains;
The sigh of thy harp shall be sent o'er the deep,
Till thy masters themselves, as they rivet thy chains,
Shall pause at the song of their captive, and weep.

WHILE GAZING ON THE MOON'S LIGHT.

While gazing on the moon's light,
A moment from her smile I turn'd,
To look at orbs, that, more bright,
In lone and distant glory burn'd.
But *too* far
Each proud star,
For me to feel its warming flame;
Much more dear
That mild sphere,
Which near our planet smiling came;—[1]
Thus, Mary, be but thou my own;
While brighter eyes unheeded play,
I'll love those moonlight looks alone,
That bless my home and guide my way.

The day had sunk in dim showers,
But midnight now, with lustre meet,
Illumin'd all the pale flowers,
Like hope upon a mourner's cheek.
I said (while
The moon's smile
Play'd o'er a stream, in dimpling bliss,)
"The moon looks
"On many brooks
"The brook can see no moon but this;"[2]
And thus, I thought, our fortunes run,
For many a lover looks to thee,
While oh! I feel there is but *one*,
One Mary in the world for me.

ILL OMENS.

When daylight was yet sleeping under the billow,
And stars in the heavens still lingering shone,
Young Kitty, all blushing, rose up from her pillow,
The last time she e'er was to press it alone.
For the youth whom she treasur'd her heart and her soul in,
Had promised to link the last tie before noon;
And, when once the young heart of a maiden is stolen,
The maiden herself will steal after it soon.

As she look'd in the glass, which a woman ne'er misses,
Nor ever wants time for a sly glance or two,
A butterfly[3], fresh from the night-flower's kisses,
Flew over the mirror, and shaded her view.
Enrag'd with the insect for hiding her graces,
She brush'd him—he fell, alas! never to rise:
"Ah! such," said the girl, "is the pride of our faces,
"For which the soul's innocence too often dies."

While she stole thro' the garden, where heart's-ease was growing,
She cull'd some, and kiss'd off its night-fall'n dew;
And a rose, farther on, look'd so tempting and glowing,
That, spite of her haste, she must gather it too:
But while o'er the roses too carelessly leaning,
Her zone flew in two, and the heart's-ease was lost:
"Ah! this means," said the girl (and she sigh'd at its meaning),
"That love is scarce worth the repose it will cost!"

BEFORE THE BATTLE.

By the hope within us springing,
Herald of to-morrow's strife;
By that sun, whose light is bringing
Chains or freedom, death or life—
Oh! remember life can be
No charm for him, who lives not free!
Like the day-star in the wave,
Sinks a hero in his grave,
Midst the dew-fall of a nation's tears.

Happy is he o'er whose decline
The smiles of home may soothing shine,
And light him down the steep of years:—

[1] "Of such celestial bodies as are visible, the sun excepted, the single moon, as despicable as it is in comparison to most of the others, is much more beneficial than they all put together." — *Whiston's Theory, &c.*
In the *Entretiens d'Ariste*, among other ingenious emblems, we find a *starry sky* without a moon, with these words, *Non mille, quod absens.*

[2] This image was *suggested* by the following thought, which occurs somewhere in Sir William Jones's works: "The moon looks upon many night-flowers, the night-flower sees but one moon."

[3] An emblem of the soul.

But oh, how blest they sink to rest,
Who close their eyes on Victory's breast!

O'er his watch-fire's fading embers
Now the foeman's cheek turns white,
When his heart that field remembers,
Where we tam'd his tyrant might.
Never let him bind again
A chain, like that we broke from then.
Hark! the horn of combat calls—
Ere the golden evening falls,
May we pledge that horn in triumph round![1]

Many a heart that now beats high,
In slumber cold at night shall lie,
Nor waken even at victory's sound:—
But oh, how blest that hero's sleep,
O'er whom a wond'ring world shall weep!

AFTER THE BATTLE.

Night clos'd around the conqueror's way,
And lightnings show'd the distant hill,
Where those who lost that dreadful day,
Stood few and faint, but fearless still.
The soldier's hope, the patriot's zeal,
For ever dimm'd, for ever crost—
Oh! who shall say what heroes feel,
When all but life and honour's lost?

The last sad hour of freedom's dream,
And valour's task, mov'd slowly by,
While mute they watch'd, till morning's beam
Should rise and give them light to die.
There's yet a world, where souls are free,
Where tyrants taint not nature's bliss;—
If death that world's bright opening be,
Oh! who would live a slave in this?

'TIS SWEET TO THINK.

'Tis sweet to think, that, where'er we rove,
We are sure to find something blissful and dear,
And that, when we're far from the lips we love,
We've but to make love to the lips we are near.[2]
The heart, like a tendril, accustom'd to cling,
Let it grow where it will, cannot flourish alone,
But will lean to the nearest, and loveliest thing,
It can twine with itself, and make closely its own.
Then oh! what pleasure, where'er we rove,
To be sure to find something, still, that is dear,
And to know, when far from the lips we love,
We've but to make love to the lips we are near,

'Twere a shame, when flowers around us rise,
To make light of the rest, if the rose isn't there;
And the world's so rich in resplendent eyes,
'Twere a pity to limit one's love to a pair.
Love's wing and the peacock's are nearly alike,
They are both of them bright, but they're changeable too,
And, wherever a new beam of beauty can strike,
It will tincture Love's plume with a different hue.
Then oh! what pleasure, where'er we rove,
To be sure to find something, still, that is dear,
And to know, when far from the lips we love,
We've but to make love to the lips we are near.

THE IRISH PEASANT TO HIS MISTRESS.[3]

Through grief and through danger thy smile hath cheer'd my way,
Till hope seem'd to bud from each thorn that round me lay;
The darker our fortune, the brighter our pure love burn'd,
Till shame into glory, till fear into zeal was turn'd;
Yes, slave as I was, in thy arms my spirit felt free,
And bless'd even the sorrows that made me more dear to thee.

Thy rival was honour'd, while thou wert wrong'd and scorn'd,
Thy crown was of briers, while gold her brows adorn'd;

[1] "The Irish Corna was not entirely devoted to martial purposes. In the heroic ages, our ancestors quaffed Meadh out of them, as the Danish hunters do their beverage at this day." — *Walker.*

[2] I believe it is Marmontel who says, "*Quand on n'a pas ce que l'on aime, il faut aimer ce que l'on a.*"— There are so many matter-of-fact people, who take such *jeux d'esprit* as this defence of inconstancy, to be the actual and genuine sentiments of him who writes them, that they compel one, in self-defence, to be as matter-of-fact as themselves, and to remind them, that Democritus was not the worse physiologist, for having playfully contended that snow was black; nor Erasmus, in any degree, the less wise, for having written an ingenious encomium of folly.

[3] Meaning, allegorically, the ancient Church of Ireland.

She woo'd me to temples, whilst thou lay'st hid in caves,
Her friends were all masters, while thine, alas! were slaves;
Yet cold in the earth, at thy feet, I would rather be,
Than wed what I lov'd not, or turn one thought from thee.

They slander thee sorely, who say thy vows are frail—
Hadst thou been a false one, thy cheek had look'd less pale.
They say, too, so long thou hast worn those lingering chains,
That deep in thy heart they have printed their servile stains—
Oh! foul is the slander,—no chain could that soul subdue—
Where shineth *thy* spirit, there liberty shineth too![1]

ON MUSIC.

When thro' life unblest we rove,
Losing all that made life dear,
Should some notes we used to love,
In days of boyhood, meet our ear,
Oh! how welcome breathes the strain!
Wakening thoughts that long have slept;
Kindling former smiles again
In faded eyes that long have wept.

Like the gale, that sighs along
Beds of oriental flowers,
Is the grateful breath of song,
That once was heard in happier hours;
Fill'd with balm, the gale sighs on,
Though the flowers have sunk in death;
So, when pleasure's dream is gone,
Its memory lives in Music's breath.

Music, oh how faint, how weak,
Language fades before thy spell!
Why should Feeling ever speak,
When thou canst breathe her soul so well?
Friendship's balmy words may feign,
Love's are ev'n more false than they;
Oh! 'tis only music's strain
Can sweetly soothe and not betray.

[1] "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."—*St. Paul*, 2 Cor. iii. 17.

IT IS NOT THE TEAR AT THIS MOMENT SHED.[2]

It is not the tear at this moment shed,
When the cold turf has just been laid o'er him,
That can tell how belov'd was the friend that's fled,
Or how deep in our hearts we deplore him.
'Tis the tear, thro' many a long day wept,
'Tis life's whole path o'ershaded;
'Tis the one remembrance, fondly kept,
When all lighter griefs have faded.

Thus his memory, like some holy light,
Kept alive in our hearts, will improve them,
For worth shall look fairer, and truth more bright,
When we think how he liv'd but to love them.
And, as fresher flowers the sod perfume
Where buried saints are lying,
So our hearts shall borrow a sweet'ning bloom
From the image he left there in dying!

THE ORIGIN OF THE HARP.

'Tis believ'd that this Harp, which I wake now for thee,
Was a Syren of old, who sung under the sea;
And who often, at eve, thro' the bright waters rov'd,
To meet, on the green shore, a youth whom she lov'd.

But she lov'd him in vain, for he left her to weep,
And in tears, all the night, her gold tresses to steep;
Till heav'n look'd with pity on true love so warm,
And chang'd to this soft Harp the sea-maiden's form.

Still her bosom rose fair—still her cheeks smil'd the same—
While her sea-beauties gracefully form'd the light frame;
And her hair, as, let loose, o'er her white arm it fell,
Was chang'd to bright chords utt'ring melody's spell.

Hence it came, that this soft Harp so long hath been known
To mingle love's language with sorrow's sad tone;
Till *thou* didst divide them, and teach the fond lay
To speak love when I'm near thee, and grief when away.

[2] These lines were occasioned by the loss of a very near and dear relative, who had died lately at Madeira.

LOVE'S YOUNG DREAM.

Oh! the days are gone, when Beauty bright
My heart's chain wove;
When my dream of life, from morn till night,
Was love, still love.
New hope may bloom,
And days may come,
Of milder, calmer beam,
But there's nothing half so sweet in life
As love's young dream:
No, there's nothing half so sweet in life
As love's young dream.

Though the bard to purer fame may soar,
When wild youth's past;
Though he win the wise, who frown'd before,
To smile at last;
He'll never meet
A joy so sweet,
In all his noon of fame,
As when first he sung to woman's ear
His soul-felt flame,
And at every close, she blush'd to hear
The one lov'd name.

No,—that hallow'd form is ne'er forgot
Which first love trac'd;
Still it lingering haunts the greenest spot
On memory's waste.
'Twas odour fled
As soon as shed;
'Twas morning's winged dream;
'Twas a light, that ne'er can shine again
On life's dull stream:
Oh! 'twas light that ne'er can shine again
On life's dull stream.

THE PRINCE'S DAY.[1]

Tho' dark are our sorrows, to-day we'll forget them,
And smile through our tears, like a sunbeam in showers:
There never were hearts, if our rulers would let them,
More form'd to be grateful and blest than ours.
But just when the chain
Has ceas'd to pain,
And hope has enwreath'd it round with flowers,
There comes a new link
Our spirits to sink—
Oh! the joy that we taste, like the light of the poles,
Is a flash amid darkness, too brilliant to stay;
But, though 'twere the last little spark in our souls,
We must light it up now, on our Prince's Day.

Contempt on the minion, who calls you disloyal!
Tho' fierce to your foe, to your friends you are true;
And the tribute most high to a head that is royal,
Is love from a heart that loves liberty too.
While cowards, who blight
Your fame, your right,
Would shrink from the blaze of the battle array,
The Standard of Green
In front would be seen,—
Oh, my life on your faith! were you summon'd this minute,
You'd cast every bitter remembrance away,
And show what the arm of old Erin has in it,
When rous'd by the foe, on her Prince's Day.

He loves the Green Isle, and his love is recorded
In hearts, which have suffer'd too much to forget;
And hope shall be crown'd, and attachment rewarded,
And Erin's gay jubilee shine out yet.
The gem may be broke
By many a stroke,
But nothing can cloud its native ray;
Each fragment will cast
A light, to the last,—
And thus, Erin, my country, tho' broken thou art,
There's a lustre within thee, that ne'er will decay;
A spirit, which beams through each suffering part,
And now smiles at all pain on the Prince's Day.

[1] This song was written for a fête in honour of the Prince of Wales's birthday, given by my friend, Major Bryan, at his seat in the county of Kilkenny.

WEEP ON, WEEP ON.

Weep on, weep on, your hour is past;
Your dreams of pride are o'er;
The fatal chain is round you cast,
And you are men no more.
In vain the hero's heart hath bled;
The sage's tongue hath warn'd in vain;
Oh, Freedom! once thy flame hath fled,
It never lights again.

Weep on—perhaps in after days,
They'll learn to love your name;

When many a deed may wake in praise
That long hath slept in blame.
And when they tread the ruin'd Isle,
Where rest, at length, the lord and slave,
They'll wond'ring ask, how hands so vile
Could conquer hearts so brave?

"'Twas fate," they'll say, "a wayward fate
"Your web of discord wove;
"And while your tyrants join'd in hate,
"You never join'd in love.
"But hearts fell off, that ought to twine,
"And man profan'd what God had given;
"Till some were heard to curse the shrine,
"Where others knelt to heaven!"

LESBIA HATH A BEAMING EYE.

Lesbia hath a beaming eye,
But no one knows for whom it beameth;
Right and left its arrows fly,
But what they aim at no one dreameth.
Sweeter 'tis to gaze upon
My Nora's lid that seldom rises;
Few its looks, but every one,
Like unexpected light, surprises!
Oh, my Nora Creina, dear,
My gentle, bashful Nora Creina,
Beauty lies
In many eyes,
But Love in yours, my Nora Creina.

Lesbia wears a robe of gold,
But all so close the nymph hath lac'd it,
Not a charm of beauty's mould
Presumes to stay where nature plac'd it.
Oh! my Nora's gown for me,
That floats as wild as mountain breezes,
Leaving every beauty free
To sink or swell as Heaven pleases.
Yes, my Nora Creina, dear,
My simple, graceful Nora Creina,
Nature's dress
Is loveliness—
The dress *you* wear, my Nora Creina.

Lesbia hath a wit refin'd,
But, when its points are gleaming round us,
Who can tell if they're design'd
To dazzle merely, or to wound us?
Pillow'd on my Nora's heart,
In safer slumber Love reposes—
Bed of peace! whose roughest part
Is but the crumpling of the roses.
Oh! my Nora Creina, dear,
My mild, my artless Nora Creina!
Wit, though bright,
Hath no such light,
As warms your eyes, my Nora Creina.

I SAW THY FORM IN YOUTHFUL PRIME.

I saw thy form in youthful prime,
Nor thought that pale decay
Would steal before the steps of Time,
And waste its bloom away, Mary!
Yet still thy features wore that light,
Which fleets not with the breath;
And life ne'er look'd more truly bright
Than in thy smile of death, Mary!

As streams that run o'er golden mines,
Yet humbly, calmly glide,
Nor seem to know the wealth that shines
Within their gentle tide, Mary!
So veil'd beneath the simplest guise,
Thy radiant genius shone,
And that, which charm'd all other eyes,
Seem'd worthless in thy own, Mary!

If souls could always dwell above,
Thou ne'er hadst left that sphere;
Or could we keep the souls we love,
We ne'er had lost thee here, Mary!
Though many a gifted mind we meet
Though fairest forms we see,
To live with them is far less sweet,
Than to remember thee, Mary![1]

BY THAT LAKE, WHOSE GLOOMY SHORE.[2]

By that Lake, whose gloomy shore
Sky-lark never warbles o'er,[3]

[1] I have here made a feeble effort to imitate that exquisite inscription of Shenstone's, "Heu! quanto minus est cum reliquis versari quam meminisse!"

[2] This ballad is founded upon one of the many stories related of St. Kevin, whose bed in the rock is to be seen at Glendalough, a most gloomy and romantic spot in the county of Wicklow.

[3] There are many other curious traditions concerning this Lake, which may be found in Giraldus, Colgan, &c.

Where the cliff hangs high and steep
Young Saint Kevin stole to sleep.
"Here, at least," he calmly said,
"Woman ne'er shall find my bed."
Ah! the good Saint little knew
What that wily sex can do.

'Twas from Kathleen's eyes he flew,—
Eyes of most unholy blue!
She had lov'd him well and long,
Wish'd him hers, nor thought it wrong.
Wheresoe'er the Saint would fly,
Still he heard her light foot nigh;
East or west, where'er he turn'd,
Still her eyes before him burn'd.

On the bold cliff's bosom cast,
Tranquil now he sleeps at last;
Dreams of heav'n, nor thinks that e'er
Woman's smile can haunt him there.
But nor earth nor heaven is free
From her power, if fond she be:
Even now, while calm he sleeps,
Kathleen o'er him leans and weeps.

Fearless she had track'd his feet
To this rocky, wild retreat;
And when morning met his view,
Her mild glances met it too.
Ah, your Saints have cruel hearts!
Sternly from his bed he starts,
And with rude repulsive shock,
Hurls her from the beetling rock.

Glendalough, thy gloomy wave
Soon was gentle Kathleen's grave!
Soon the Saint (yet ah! too late,)
Felt her love, and mourn'd her fate.
When he said, "Heaven rest her soul!"
Round the Lake light music stole;
And her ghost was seen to glide,
Smiling o'er the fatal tide.

SHE IS FAR FROM THE LAND.

She is far from the land where her young hero sleeps,
And lovers are round her, sighing:
But coldly she turns from their gaze, and weeps,
For her heart in his grave is lying.

She sings the wild song of her dear native plains,
Every note which he lov'd awaking;—
Ah! little they think who delight in her strains,
How the heart of the Minstrel is breaking.

He had liv'd for his love, for his country he died,
They were all that to life had entwin'd him;
Nor soon shall the tears of his country be dried,
Nor long will his love stay behind him.

Oh! make her a grave where the sunbeams rest,
When they promise a glorious morrow;
They'll shine o'er her sleep, like a smile from the West,
From her own lov'd island of sorrow.

NAY, TELL ME NOT, DEAR.

Nay, tell me not, dear, that the goblet drowns
One charm of feeling, one fond regret;
Believe me, a few of thy angry frowns
Are all I've sunk in its bright wave yet.
Ne'er hath a beam
Been lost in the stream
That ever was shed from thy form or soul;
The spell of those eyes,
The balm of thy sighs,
Still float on the surface, and hallow my bowl.
Then fancy not, dearest, that wine can steal
One blissful dream of the heart from me;
Like founts that awaken the pilgrim's zeal,
The bowl but brightens my love for thee.

They tell us that Love in his fairy bower
Had two blush-roses, of birth divine;
He sprinkled the one with a rainbow's shower,
But bath'd the other with mantling wine.
Soon did the buds
That drank of the floods
Distill'd by the rainbow, decline and fade;
While those which the tide
Of ruby had dy'd
All blush'd into beauty, like thee, sweet maid!
Then fancy not, dearest, that wine can steal
One blissful dream of the heart from me;
Like founts, that awaken the pilgrim's zeal,
The bowl but brightens my love for thee.

AVENGING AND BRIGHT.

AVENGING and bright fall the swift sword of Erin [1]
On him who the brave sons of Usna betray'd!—
For every fond eye he hath waken'd a tear in,
A drop from his heart-wounds shall weep o'er her blade.

By the red cloud that hung over Conor's dark dwelling, [2]
When Ulad's [3] three champions lay sleeping in gore—
By the billows of war, which so often, high swelling,
Have wafted these heroes to victory's shore—

We swear to revenge them!—no joy shall be tasted,
The harp shall be silent, the maiden unwed,
Our halls shall be mute, and our fields shall lie wasted,
Till vengeance is wreak'd on the murderer's head.

Yes, monarch! tho' sweet are our home recollections,
Though sweet are the tears that from tenderness fall;
Though sweet are our friendships, our hopes, our affections,
Revenge on a tyrant is sweetest of all!

WHAT THE BEE IS TO THE FLOWERET.

He.—WHAT the bee is to the flow'ret,
When he looks for honey-dew,
Through the leaves that close embower it,
That, my love, I'll be to you.

She.—What the bank, with verdure glowing,
Is to waves that wander near
Whisp'ring kisses, while they're going,
That I'll be to you, my dear.

She.—But they say, the bee's a rover,
Who will fly, when sweets are gone;
And, when once the kiss is over,
Faithless brooks will wander on.

He.—Nay, if flowers *will* lose their looks,
If sunny banks *will* wear away,
'Tis but right, that bees and brooks
Should sip and kiss them while they may.

LOVE AND THE NOVICE.

"HERE we dwell, in holiest bowers,
"Where angels of light o'er our orisons bend;
"Where sighs of devotion and breathings of flowers
"To heaven in mingled odour ascend.
"Do not disturb our calm, oh Love!
"So like is thy form to the cherubs above,
"It well might deceive such hearts as ours."

Love stood near the Novice and listen'd,
And Love is no novice in taking a hint;
His laughing blue eyes soon with piety glisten'd;
His rosy wing turn'd to heaven's own tint.
"Who would have thought," the urchin cries,
"That Love could so well, so gravely disguise
"His wandering wings and wounding eyes?"

Love now warms thee, waking and sleeping,
Young Novice, to him all thy orisons rise.
He tinges the heavenly fount with his weeping,
He brightens the censer's flame with his sighs.
Love is the Saint enshrin'd in thy breast,
And angels themselves would admit such a guest,
If he came to them cloth'd in Piety's vest.

THIS LIFE IS ALL CHEQUER'D WITH PLEASURES AND WOES.

THIS life is all chequer'd with pleasures and woes,
That chase one another like waves of the deep,—

The words of this song were suggested by the very ancient Irish story called "Deirdri, or the Lamentable Fate of the Sons of Usnach," which has been translated literally from the Gaelic, by Mr. O'Flanagan (see vol. i. of *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Dublin*), and upon which it appears that the "Darthula of Macpherson" is founded. The treachery of Conor, King of Ulster, in putting to death the three sons of Usna, was the cause of a desolating war against Ulster, which terminated in the destruction of Eman. "This story (says Mr. O'Flanagan) has been, from time immemorial, held in high repute as one of the three tragic stories of the Irish. These are, 'The death of the children of Touran;' 'The death of the children of Lear' (both regarding Tuatha de Danans), and this, 'The death of the children of Usnach,' which is a Milesian story." It will be recollected, that, in the Second Number of these Melodies, there is a ballad upon the story of the children of Lear or Lir; "Silent, oh Moyle!" &c.

Whatever may be thought of those sanguine claims to antiquity, which Mr. O'Flanagan and others advance for the literature of Ireland, it would be a lasting reproach upon our nationality, if the Gaelic researches of this gentleman did not meet with all the liberal encouragement they so well merit.

[1] "Oh Nasi! view that cloud that I here see in the sky! I see over Eman-green a chilling cloud of blood-tinged red."—*Deirdri's Song.*

[2] Ulster.

Each brightly or darkly, as onward it flows,
Reflecting our eyes, as they sparkle or weep.
So closely our whims on our miseries tread,
That the laugh is awak'd ere the tear can be dried;
And, as fast as the rain-drop of Pity is shed,
The goose-plumage of Folly can turn it aside.
But pledge me the cup—if existence would cloy,
With hearts ever happy, and heads ever wise,
Be ours the light Sorrow, half-sister to Joy,
And the light, brilliant Folly that flashes and dies.

When Hylas was sent with his urn to the fount,
Through fields full of light, and with heart full of play,
Light rambled the boy, over meadow and mount,
And neglected his task for the flowers on the way.[1]
Thus many, like me, who in youth should have tasted
The fountain that runs by Philosophy's shrine,
Their time with the flowers on the margin have wasted,
And left their light urns all as empty as mine.
But pledge me the goblet;—while Idleness weaves
These flow'rets together, should Wisdom but see
One bright drop or two that has fall'n on the leaves,
From her fountain divine, 'tis sufficient for me.

OH THE SHAMROCK.

Through Erin's Isle,
To sport awhile,
As Love and valour wander'd,
With Wit, the sprite,
Whose quiver bright
A thousand arrows squander'd.
Where'er they pass,
A triple grass[2]
Shoots up, with dew-drops streaming,
As softly green
As emeralds seen
Through purest crystal gleaming.
Oh the Shamrock, the green, immortal Shamrock!
Chosen leaf,
Of Bard and Chief,
Old Erin's native Shamrock!

Says Valour, "See,
"They spring for me,
"Those leafy gems of morning!"—
Says Love, "No, no,
"For *me* they grow,
"My fragrant path adorning."
But Wit perceives
The triple leaves,
And cries, "Oh! do not sever
"A type, that blends
"Three godlike friends,
"Love, Valour, Wit, for ever!"
Oh the Shamrock, the green, immortal Shamrock!
Chosen leaf
Of Bard and Chief,
Old Erin's native Shamrock!

So firmly fond
May last the bond
They wove that morn together,
And ne'er may fall
One drop of gall
On Wit's celestial feather.
May Love, as twine
His flowers divine,
Of thorny falsehood weed 'em;
May valour ne'er
His standard rear
Against the cause of Freedom!
Oh the Shamrock, the green, immortal Shamrock!
Chosen leaf
Of Bard and Chief,
Old Erin's native Shamrock!

AT THE MID HOUR OF NIGHT.

At the mid hour of night, when stars are weeping, I fly
To the lone vale we lov'd, when life shone warm in thine eye;
And I think oft, if spirits can steal from the regions of air,
To revisit past scenes of delight, thou wilt come to me there,
And tell me our love is remember'd, even in the sky.

[1] "Proposito florem prætulit officio."
PROPERT. lib. i. eleg. 20.

[2] It is said that St. Patrick, when preaching the Trinity to the Pagan Irish, used to illustrate his subject by reference to that species of trefoil called in Ireland by the name of the Shamrock; and hence, perhaps, the Island of Saints adopted this plant as her national emblem. Hope, among the ancients, was sometimes represented as a beautiful child, standing upon tiptoes, and a trefoil of three-coloured grass in her hand.

Then I sing the wild song 'twas once such pleasure to hear!
When our voices commingling breath'd, like one, on the ear;
And, as Echo far off through the vale my sad orison rolls,
I think, oh my love! 'tis thy voice from the Kingdom of Souls,[1]
Faintly answering still the notes that once were so dear.

ONE BUMPER AT PARTING.

One bumper at parting!—though many
Have circled the board since we met,
The fullest, the saddest of any,
Remains to be crown'd by us yet.
The sweetness that pleasure hath in it,
Is always so slow to come forth,
That seldom, alas, till the minute
It dies, do we know half its worth.
But come,—may our life's happy measure
Be all of such moments made up;
They're born on the bosom of Pleasure,
They die 'midst the tears of the cup.

As onward we journey, how pleasant
To pause and inhabit awhile
Those few sunny spots, like the present,
That 'mid the dull wilderness smile!
But Time, like a pitiless master,
Cries "Onward!" and spurs the gay hours—
Ah, never doth Time travel faster,
Than when his way lies among flowers.
But come,—may our life's happy measure
Be all of such moments made up;
They're born on the bosom of Pleasure,
They die 'midst the tears of the cup.

We saw how the sun look'd in sinking,
The waters beneath him how bright;
And now, let our farewell of drinking
Resemble that farewell of light.
You saw how he finish'd, by darting
His beam o'er a deep billow's brim—
So, fill up, let's shine at our parting,
In full liquid glory, like him.

And oh! may our life's happy measure
Of moments like this be made up,
'Twas born on the bosom of Pleasure,
It dies 'mid the tears of the cup.

'TIS THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER.

'Tis the last rose of summer
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone;
No flower of her kindred,
No rose-bud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes,
Or give sigh for sigh.

I'll not leave thee, thou lone one!
To pine on the stem;
Since the lovely are sleeping,
Go, sleep thou with them.
Thus kindly I scatter
Thy leaves o'er the bed,
Where thy mates of the garden
Lie scentless and dead.

So soon may *I* follow,
When friendships decay,
And from Love's shining circle
The gems drop away.
When true hearts lie wither'd,
And fond ones are flown,
Oh! who would inhabit
This bleak world alone?

THE YOUNG MAY MOON.

The young May moon is beaming, love,
The glow-worm's lamp is gleaming, love,
How sweet to rove
Through Morna's grove,[2]
When the drowsy world is dreaming, love!
Then awake!—the heavens look bright, my dear,
'Tis never too late for delight, my dear,
And the best of all ways
To lengthen our days,
Is to steal a few hours from the night, my dear!

[1] "There are countries," says Montaigne, "where they believe the souls of the happy live in all manner of liberty, in delightful fields; and that it is those souls, repeating the words we utter, which we call Echo."

[2] "Steals silently to Morna's grove."—See, in Mr. Bunting's collection, a poem translated from the Irish, by the late John Brown, one of my earliest college companions and friends, whose death was as singularly melancholy and unfortunate as his life had been amiable, honourable, and exemplary.

Now all the world is sleeping, love,
But the Sage, his star-watch keeping, love,
And I, whose star,
More glorious far,
Is the eye from that casement peeping, love.
Then awake!—till rise of sun, my dear,
The Sage's glass we'll shun, my dear,
Or, in watching the flight
Of bodies of light,
He might happen to take thee for one, my dear.

THE MINSTREL BOY.

The Minstrel Boy to the war is gone,
In the ranks of death you'll find him;
His father's sword he has girded on,
And his wild harp slung behind him.—
"Land of song!" said the warrior-bard,
"Though all the world betrays thee,
"*One* sword, at least, thy rights shall guard,
"*One* faithful harp shall praise thee!"

The Minstrel fell!—but the foeman's chain
Could not bring his proud soul under;
The harp he lov'd ne'er spoke again,
For he tore its chords asunder;
And said, "No chains shall sully thee,
"Thou soul of love and bravery!
"Thy songs were made for the pure and free,
"They shall never sound in slavery."

THE SONG OF O'RUARK,

PRINCE OF BREFFNI.[1]

The valley lay smiling before me,
Where lately I left her behind;
Yet I trembled, and something hung o'er me,
That saddened the joy of my mind.

I look'd for the lamp which, she told me,
Should shine, when her Pilgrim return'd;
But, though darkness began to infold me,
No lamp from the battlements burn'd!

I flew to her chamber—'twas lonely,
As if the lov'd tenant lay dead;—
Ah, would it were death, and death only!
But no, the young false one had fled.
And there hung the lute that could soften
My very worst pains into bliss;
While the hand, that had wak'd it so often,
Now throbb'd to a proud rival's kiss.

There *was* a time, falsest of women,
When Breffni's good sword would have sought
That man, thro' a million of foemen,
Who dar'd but to wrong thee *in thought!*
While now—oh degenerate daughter
Of Erin, how fall'n is thy fame!
And through ages of bondage and slaughter,
Our country shall bleed for thy shame.

Already, the curse is upon her,
And strangers her valleys profane;
They come to divide, to dishonour,
And tyrants they long will remain.
But onward!—the green banner rearing,
Go, flesh every sword to the hilt;
On *our* side is Virtue and Erin,
On *theirs* is the Saxon and guilt.

OH! HAD WE SOME BRIGHT LITTLE ISLE OF OUR OWN.

Oh! had we some bright little isle of our own,
In a blue summer ocean, far off and alone,
Where a leaf never dies in the still blooming bowers,
And the bee banquets on through a whole year of flowers;

[1] These stanzas are founded upon an event of most melancholy importance to Ireland; if, as we are told by our Irish historians, it gave England the first opportunity of profiting by our divisions and subduing us. The following are the circumstances, as related by O'Halloran:—"The king of Leinster had long conceived a violent affection for Dearbhorgil, daughter to the king of Meath, and though she had been for some time married to O'Ruark, prince of Breffni, yet it could not restrain his passion. They carried on a private correspondence, and she informed him that O'Ruark intended soon to go on a pilgrimage (an act of piety frequent in those days), and conjured him to embrace that opportunity of conveying her from a husband she detested to a lover she adored. Mac Murchad too punctually obeyed the summons, and had the lady conveyed to his capital of Ferns."—The monarch Roderick espoused the cause of O'Ruark, while Mac Murchad fled to England, and obtained the assistance of Henry II.

"Such," adds Giraldus Cambrensis (as I find him in an old translation), "is the variable and fickle nature of woman, by whom all mischief in the world (for the most part) do happen and come, as may appear by Marcus Antonius, and by the destruction of Troy."

Where the sun loves to pause
With so fond a delay,
That the night only draws
A thin veil o'er the day;
Where simply to feel that we breathe, that we live,
Is worth the best joy that life elsewhere can give.

There, with souls ever ardent and pure as the clime,
We should love, as they lov'd in the first golden time;
The glow of the sunshine, the balm of the air,
Would steal to our hearts, and make all summer there.
With affection as free
From decline as the bowers,
And, with hope, like the bee,
Living always on flowers,
Our life should resemble a long day of light,
And our death come on, holy and calm as the night.

FAREWELL!—BUT WHENEVER YOU WELCOME THE HOUR.

Farewell!—but whenever you welcome the hour,
That awakens the night-song of mirth in your bower,
Then think of the friend who once welcom'd it too,
And forgot his own griefs to be happy with you.
His griefs may return, not a hope may remain
Of the few that have brighten'd his pathway of pain,
But he ne'er will forget the short vision, that threw
Its enchantment around him, while ling'ring with you.

And still on that evening, when pleasure fills up
To the highest top sparkle each heart and each cup,
Where'er my path lies, be it gloomy or bright,
My soul, happy friends, shall be with you that night;
Shall join in your revels, your sports, and your wiles,
And return to me, beaming all o'er with your smiles—
Too blest, if it tells me that, 'mid the gay cheer,
Some kind voice had murmur'd, "I wish he were here!"

Let Fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,
Bright dreams of the past, which she cannot destroy;
Which come in the night-time of sorrow and care,
And bring back the features that joy used to wear.
Long, long be my heart with such memories fill'd!
Like the vase, in which roses have once been distill'd—
You may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will,
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

OH! DOUBT ME NOT.

Oh! doubt me not—the season
Is o'er, when Folly made me rove,
And now the vestal, Reason,
Shall watch the fire awak'd by Love.
Although this heart was early blown,
And fairest hands disturb'd the tree,
They only shook some blossoms down,
Its fruit has all been kept for thee.
Then doubt me not—the season
Is o'er, when Folly made me rove,
And now the vestal, Reason,
Shall watch the fire awak'd by Love.

And though my lute no longer
May sing of Passion's ardent spell,
Yet, trust me, all the stronger
I feel the bliss I do not tell.
The bee through many a garden roves,
And hums his lay of courtship o'er,
But when he finds the flower he loves,
He settles there, and hums no more.
Then doubt me not—the season
Is o'er, when Folly kept me free,
And now the vestal, Reason,
Shall guard the flame awak'd by thee.

YOU REMEMBER ELLEN.[1]

You remember Ellen, our hamlet's pride,
How meekly she blessed her humble lot,
When the stranger, William, had made her his bride,
And love was the light of their lowly cot.
Together they toil'd through winds and rains,
Till William, at length, in sadness said,
"We must seek our fortune on other plains;"—
Then, sighing, she left her lowly shed.

[1] This ballad was suggested by a well-known and interesting story told of a certain noble family in England.

They roam'd a long and a weary way,
Nor much was the maiden's heart at ease,
When now, at close of one stormy day,
They see a proud castle among the trees.
"To-night," said the youth, "we'll shelter there;
"The wind blows cold, the hour is late:"
So he blew the horn with a chieftain's air,
And the Porter bow'd, as they pass'd the gate.

"Now, welcome," Lady, exclaim'd the youth,—
"This castle is thine, and these dark woods all!"
She believ'd him crazed, but his words were truth,
For Ellen is Lady of Rosna Hall!
And dearly the Lord of Rosna loves
What William, the stranger, woo'd and wed;
And the light of bliss, in these lordly groves,
Shines pure as it did in the lowly shed.

I'D MOURN THE HOPES.

I'd mourn the hopes that leave me,
If thy smiles had left me too;
I'd weep when friends deceive me,
If thou wert, like them, untrue.
But while I've thee before me,
With heart so warm and eyes so bright,
No clouds can linger o'er me,
That smile turns them all to light.

'Tis not in fate to harm me,
While fate leaves thy love to me;
'Tis not in joy to charm me,
Unless joy be shar'd with thee.
One minute's dream about thee
Were worth a long, an endless year
Of waking bliss without thee,
My own love, my only dear!

And though the hope be gone, love,
That long sparkled o'er our way,
Oh! we shall journey on, love,
More safely, without its ray.
Far better lights shall win me
Along the path I've yet to roam:—
The mind that burns within me,
And pure smiles from thee at home.

Thus when the lamp that lighted
The traveller at first goes out,
He feels awhile benighted,
And looks round in fear and doubt.
But soon, the prospect clearing,
By cloudless starlight on he treads,
And thinks no lamp so cheering
As that light which Heaven sheds.

COME O'ER THE SEA.

Come o'er the sea,
Maiden, with me,
Mine through sunshine, storm, and snows;
Seasons may roll,
But the true soul
Burns the same, where'er it goes.
Let fate frown on, so we love and part not;
'Tis life where *thou* art, 'tis death where thou'rt not.
Then come o'er the sea,
Maiden, with me,
Come wherever the wild wind blows;
Seasons may roll,
But the true soul
Burns the same, where'er it goes.

Was not the sea
Made for the Free,
Land for courts and chains alone?
Here we are slaves,
But, on the waves,
Love and Liberty's all our own.
No eye to watch, and no tongue to wound us,
All earth forgot, and all heaven around us—
Then come o'er the sea,
Maiden, with me,
Mine through sunshine, storm, and snows;
Seasons may roll,
But the true soul
Burns the same, where'er it goes.

HAS SORROW THY YOUNG DAYS SHADED.

Has sorrow thy young days shaded,
As clouds o'er the morning fleet?
Too fast have those young days faded,
That, even in sorrow, were sweet!
Does Time with his cold wing wither
Each feeling that once was dear?—
Then, child of misfortune, come hither,
I'll weep with thee, tear for tear.

Has love to that soul, so tender,
Been like our Lagenian mine,[1]
Where sparkles of golden splendour
All over the surface shine —
But, if in pursuit we go deeper,
Allur'd by the gleam that shone,
Ah! false as the dream of the sleeper,
Like Love, the bright ore is gone.

Has Hope, like the bird in the story,[2]
That flitted from tree to tree
With the talisman's glitt'ring glory —
Has Hope been that bird to thee?
On branch after branch alighting,
The gem did she still display,
And, when nearest and most inviting,
Then waft the fair gem away?

If thus the young hours have fleeted,
When sorrow itself looked bright;
If thus the fair hope hath cheated,
That led thee along so light;
If thus the cold world now wither
Each feeling that once was dear:—
Come, child of misfortune, come hither,
I'll weep with thee, tear for tear.

NO, NOT MORE WELCOME.

No, not more welcome the fairy numbers
Of music fall on the sleeper's ear,
When half-awaking from fearful slumbers,
He thinks the full quire of heaven is near,—
Than came that voice, when, all forsaken,
This heart long had sleeping lain,
Nor thought its cold pulse would ever waken
To such benign, blessed sounds again.

Sweet voice of comfort! 'twas like the stealing
Of summer wind thro' some wreathed shell—
Each secret winding, each inmost feeling
Of all my soul echoed to its spell.
'Twas whisper'd balm — 'twas sunshine spoken! —
I'd live years of grief and pain
To have my long sleep of sorrow broken
By such benign, blessed sounds again.

[1] Our Wicklow Gold Mines, to which this verse alludes, deserves, I fear, but too well the character here given of them.

[2] The bird, having got its prize, settled not far off, with the talisman in his mouth. The prince drew near it, hoping it would drop it; but, as he approached, the bird took wing, and settled again," &c. — *Arabian Nights*.

WHEN FIRST I MET THEE.

When first I met thee, warm and young,
There shone such truth about thee,
And on thy lip such promise hung,
I did not dare to doubt thee.
I saw thee change, yet still relied,
Still clung with hope the fonder,
And thought, though false to all beside,
From me thou couldst not wander.
But go, deceiver! go,
The heart, whose hopes could make it
Trust one so false, so low,
Deserves that thou shouldst break it.

When every tongue thy follies nam'd,
I fled the unwelcome story;
Or found, in even the faults they blam'd,
Some gleams of future glory.
I still was true, when nearer friends
Conspired to wrong, to slight thee;
The heart that now thy falsehood rends
Would then have bled to right thee.
But go, deceiver! go,—
Some day, perhaps, thou'lt waken
From pleasure's dream, to know
The grief of hearts forsaken.

Even now, though youth its bloom has shed,
No lights of age adorn thee:
The few, who lov'd thee once, have fled,
And they, who flatter, scorn thee.
Thy midnight cup is pledg'd to slaves,
No genial ties enwreath it;
The smiling there, like light on graves,
Has rank cold hearts beneath it.
Go—go—though worlds were thine,
I would not now surrender
One taintless tear of mine
For all thy guilty splendour!

And days may come, thou false one! yet,
When even those ties shall sever;
When thou wilt call, with vain regret,
On her thou'st lost for ever;
On her who, in thy fortune's fall,
With smiles had still receiv'd thee,
And gladly died to prove thee all
Her fancy first believ'd thee.

Go—go—'tis vain to curse,
'Tis weakness to upbraid thee;
Hate cannot wish thee worse
Than guilt and shame have made thee.

WHILE HISTORY'S MUSE.

While History's Muse the memorial was keeping
Of all that the dark hand of Destiny weaves,
Beside her the Genius of Erin stood weeping,
For her's was the story that blotted the leaves.
But oh! how the tear in her eyelids grew bright,
When, after whole pages of sorrow and shame,
She saw History write,
With a pencil of light
That illum'd the whole volume, her Wellington's name.

"Hail, Star of my Isle!" said the Spirit, all sparkling
With beams, such as break from her own dewy skies—
"Through ages of sorrow, deserted and darkling,
"I've watch'd for some glory like thine to arise.
"For, though Heroes I've number'd, unblest was their lot,
"And unhallow'd they sleep in the crossways of Fame;—
"But oh! there is not
"One dishonouring blot
"On the wreath that encircles my Wellington's name.

"Yet still the last crown of thy toils is remaining,
"The grandest, the purest, ev'n *thou* hast yet known;
"Though proud was thy task, other nations unchaining,
"Far prouder to heal the deep wounds of thy own.
"At the foot of that throne for whose weal thou hast stood,
"Go, plead for the land that first cradled thy fame,
"And, bright o'er the flood
"Of her tears and her blood,
"Let the rainbow of Hope be her Wellington's name!"

[1] This alludes to a kind of Irish fairy, which is to be met with, they say, in the fields at dusk. As long as you keep your eyes upon him, he is fixed, and in your power;—but the moment you look away (and he is ingenious in furnishing some inducement) he vanishes. I had thought that this was the sprite which we call the Leprechaun; but a high authority upon such subjects, Lady Morgan, (in a note upon her national and interesting novel, O'Donnel,) has given a very different account of that goblin.

THE TIME I'VE LOST IN WOOING.

The time I've lost in wooing,
In watching and pursuing
The light, that lies
In woman's eyes,
Has been my heart's undoing.
Though Wisdom oft has sought me,
I scorn'd the lore she brought me,
My only books
Were woman's looks,
And folly's all they've taught me.

Her smile when Beauty granted,
I hung with gaze enchanted,
Like him the sprite,[1]
Whom maids by night
Oft meet in glen that's haunted.
Like him, too, Beauty won me,
But while her eyes were on me,
If once their ray
Was turn'd away,
O! winds could not outrun me.

And are those follies going?
And is my proud heart growing
Too cold or wise
For brilliant eyes
Again to set it glowing?
No, vain, alas! th' endeavour
From bonds so sweet to sever;
Poor Wisdom's chance
Against a glance
Is now as weak as ever.

WHERE IS THE SLAVE.

Oh, where's the slave so lowly,
Condemn'd to chains unholy,
Who, could he burst
His bonds at first,
Would pine beneath them slowly?
What soul, whose wrongs degrade it,
Would wait till time decay'd it,
When thus its wing
At once may spring
To the throne of Him who made it?

Farewell, Erin,—farewell, all,
Who live to weep our fall!

Less dear the laurel growing,
Alive, untouch'd and blowing,
Than that, whose braid
Is pluck'd to shade
The brows with victory glowing.
We tread the land that bore us
Her green flag glitters o'er us,
The friends we've tried
Are by our side,
And the foe we hate before us.

Farewell, Erin,—farewell, all,
Who live to weep our fall!

COME, REST IN THIS BOSOM.

Come, rest in this bosom, my own stricken deer,
Though the herd have fled from thee, thy home is still here;
Here still is the smile, that no cloud can o'ercast,
And a heart and a hand all thy own to the last.

Oh! what was love made for, if 'tis not the same
Through joy and through torment, through glory and shame?
I know not, I ask not, if guilt's in that heart,
I but know that I love thee, whatever thou art.

Thou hast call'd me thy Angel in moments of bliss,
And thy Angel I'll be, 'mid the horrors of this,—
Through the furnace, unshrinking, thy steps to pursue,
And shield thee, and save thee,—or perish there too!

'TIS GONE, AND FOR EVER.

'Tis gone, and for ever, the light we saw breaking,
Like Heaven's first dawn o'er the sleep of the dead—
When Man, from the slumber of ages awaking,
Look'd upward, and bless'd the pure ray, ere it fled.

'Tis gone, and the gleams it has left of its burning
But deepen the long night of bondage and mourning,
That dark o'er the kingdoms of earth is returning,
And darkest of all, hapless Erin, o'er thee.

For high was thy hope, when those glories were darting
Around thee, through all the gross clouds of the world;
When Truth, from her fetters indignantly starting,
At once, like a Sun-burst, her banner unfurl'd.[1]
Oh! never shall earth see a moment so splendid!
Then, then—had one Hymn of Deliverance blended
The tongues of all nations—how sweet had ascended
The first note of Liberty, Erin, from thee!

But, shame on those tyrants, who envied the blessing!
And shame on the light race, unworthy its good,
Who, at Death's reeking altar, like furies, caressing
The young hope of Freedom, baptiz'd it in blood.
Then vanish'd for ever that fair, sunny vision,
Which, spite of the slavish, the cold heart's derision,
Shall long be remember'd, pure, bright, and elysian
As first it arose, my lost Erin, on thee.

I SAW FROM THE BEACH.

I saw from the beach, when the morning was shining,
A bark o'er the waters move gloriously on;
I came when the sun o'er that beach was declining,
The bark was still there, but the waters were gone.

And such is the fate of our life's early promise,
So passing the spring-tide of joy we have known;
Each wave, that we danc'd on at morning, ebbs from us,
And leaves us, at eve, on the bleak shore alone.

Ne'er tell me of glories, serenely adorning
The close of our day, the calm eve of our night;—
Give me back, give me back the wild freshness of Morning,
Her clouds and her tears are worth Evening's best light.

[1] "The Sun-burst" was the fanciful name given by the ancient Irish to the Royal Banner.

Oh, who would not welcome that moment's returning,
When passion first wak'd a new life through his frame,
And his soul, like the wood, that grows precious in burning,
Gave out all its sweets to love's exquisite flame.

FILL THE BUMPER FAIR.

Fill the bumper fair!
Every drop we sprinkle
O'er the brow of Care
Smooths away a wrinkle.
Wit's electric flame
Ne'er so swiftly passes,
As when through the frame
It shoots from brimming glasses.
Fill the bumper fair!
Every drop we sprinkle
O'er the brow of Care
Smooths away a wrinkle.

Sages can, they say,
Grasp the lightning's pinions,
And bring down its ray
From the starr'd dominions:—
So we, Sages, sit,
And, 'mid bumpers bright'ning,
From the Heaven of Wit
Draw down all its lightning.

Wouldst thou know what first
Made our souls inherit
This ennobling thirst
For wine's celestial spirit?
It chanc'd upon that day,
When, as bards inform us,
Prometheus stole away
The living fires that warm us:

The careless Youth, when up
To Glory's fount aspiring,
Took nor urn nor cup
To hide the pilfer'd fire in.—
But oh his joy, when, round
The halls of Heaven spying,
Among the stars he found
A bowl of Bacchus lying!

Some drops were in that bowl,
Remains of last night's pleasure,
With which the Sparks of Soul
Mix'd their burning treasure.
Hence the goblet's shower
Hath such spells to win us;
Hence its mighty power
O'er that flame within us.
Fill the bumper fair!
Every drop we sprinkle
O'er the brow of Care
Smooths away a wrinkle.

DEAR HARP OF MY COUNTRY.

Dear Harp of my Country! in darkness I found thee,
The cold chain of silence had hung o'er thee long,[1]
When proudly, my own Island Harp, I unbound thee,
And gave all thy chords to light, freedom, and song!
The warm lay of love and the light note of gladness
Have waken'd thy fondest, thy liveliest thrill;
But, so oft hast thou echo'd the deep sigh of sadness,
That ev'n in thy mirth it will steal from thee still.

Dear Harp of my Country! farewell to thy numbers,
This sweet wreath of song is the last we shall twine!
Go, sleep with the sunshine of Fame on thy slumbers,
Till touch'd by some hand less unworthy than mine;
If the pulse of the patriot, soldier, or lover,
Have throbb'd at our lay, 'tis thy glory alone;
I was *but* as the wind, passing heedlessly over,
And all the wild sweetness I wak'd was thy own.

[1] In that rebellious but beautiful song, "When Erin first rose," there is, if I recollect right, the following line:—

"The dark chain of Silence was thrown o'er the deep."

The chain of Silence was a sort of practical figure of rhetoric among the ancient Irish. Walker tells us of "a celebrated contention for precedence between Finn and Gaul, near Finn's palace at Almhaim, where the attending Bards, anxious, if possible, to produce a cessation of hostilities, shook the chain of Silence, and flung themselves among the ranks." See also the *Ode to Gaul, the Son of Morni, in* Miss Brooke's *Reliques of Irish Poetry.*

MY GENTLE HARP.

My gentle Harp, once more I waken
The sweetness of thy slumb'ring strain;
In tears our last farewell was taken,
And now in tears we meet again.
No light of joy hath o'er thee broken,
But, like those Harps whose heav'nly skill
Of slavery, dark as thine, hath spoken,
Thou hang'st upon the willows still.

And yet, since last thy chord resounded,
An hour of peace and triumph came,
And many an ardent bosom bounded
With hopes—that now are turn'd to shame.
Yet even then, while Peace was singing
Her halcyon song o'er land and sea,
Though joy and hope to others bringing,
She only brought new tears to thee.

Then, who can ask for notes of pleasure,
My drooping Harp, from chords like thine?
Alas, the lark's gay morning measure
As ill would suit the swan's decline!
Or how shall I, who love, who bless thee,
Invoke thy breath for Freedom's strains,
When ev'n the wreaths in which I dress thee,
Are sadly mix'd—half flow'rs, half chains?

But come—if yet thy frame can borrow
One breath of joy, oh, breathe for me,
And show the world, in chains and sorrow,
How sweet thy music still can be;
How gaily, ev'n mid gloom surrounding,
Thou yet canst wake at pleasure's thrill—
Like Memnon's broken image sounding,
'Mid desolation tuneful still! [1]

IN THE MORNING OF LIFE.

In the morning of life, when its cares are unknown,
And its pleasures in all their new lustre begin,
When we live in a bright-beaming world of our own,
And the light that surrounds us is all from within;
Oh 'tis not, believe me, in that happy time
We can love, as in hours of less transport we may;—

Of our smiles, of our hopes, 'tis the gay sunny prime,
But affection is truest when these fade away.

When we see the first glory of youth pass us by,
Like a leaf on the stream that will never return;
When our cup, which had sparkled with pleasure so high,
First tastes of the *other*, the dark-flowing urn;
Then, then is the time when affection holds sway
With a depth and a tenderness joy never knew;
Love, nurs'd among pleasures, is faithless as they,
But the love born of Sorrow, like Sorrow, is true.

In climes full of sunshine, though splendid the flowers,
Their sighs have no freshness, their odour no worth;
'Tis the cloud and the mist of our own Isle of showers,
That call the rich spirit of fragrancy forth.
So it is not mid splendour, prosperity, mirth,
That the depth of Love's generous spirit appears;
To the sunshine of smiles it may first owe its birth,
But the soul of its sweetness is drawn out by tears.

AS SLOW OUR SHIP.

As slow our ship her foamy track
Against the wind was cleaving,
Her trembling pennant still look'd back
To that dear Isle 'twas leaving.
So loath we part from all we love,
From all the links that bind us;
So turn our hearts as on we rove,
To those we've left behind us.

When, round the bowl, of vanish'd years
We talk, with joyous seeming,—
With smiles that might as well be tears,
So faint, so sad their beaming;
While mem'ry brings us back again
Each early tie that twined us,
Oh, sweet's the cup that circles then
To those we've left behind us.

And when, in other climes, we meet
Some isle, or vale enchanting,
Where all looks flow'ry, wild, and sweet,
And nought but love is wanting;

[1] Dimidio magicæ resonant ubi Memnone chordæ.—*Juvenal.*

We think how great had been our bliss,
If Heav'n had but assign'd us
To live and die in scenes like this,
With some we've left behind us!

As trav'llers oft look back at eve,
When eastward darkly going,
To gaze upon that light they leave
Still faint behind them glowing,—
So, when the close of pleasure's day
To gloom hath near consign'd us,
We turn to catch one fading ray
Of joy that's left behind us.

WHEN COLD IN THE EARTH.

When cold in the earth lies the friend thou hast lov'd,
Be his faults and his follies forgot by thee then;
Or, if from their slumber the veil be remov'd,
Weep o'er them in silence, and close it again.
And oh! if 'tis pain to remember how far
From the pathways of light he was tempted to roam,
Be it bliss to remember that thou wert the star
That arose on his darkness, and guided him home.

From thee and thy innocent beauty first came
The revealings, that taught him true love to adore,
To feel the bright presence, and turn him with shame
From the idols he blindly had knelt to before.
O'er the waves of a life, long benighted and wild,
Thou camest, like a soft golden calm o'er the sea;
And if happiness purely and glowingly smil'd
On his ev'ning horizon, the light was from thee.

And though, sometimes, the shades of past folly might rise,
And though falsehood again would allure him to stray,
He but turn'd to the glory that dwelt in those eyes,
And the folly, the falsehood, soon vanish'd away.
As the Priests of the Sun, when their altar grew dim,
At the day-beam alone could its lustre repair,
So, if virtue a moment grew languid in him,
He but flew to that smile, and rekindled it there.

REMEMBER THEE.

Remember thee? yes, while there's life in this heart,
It shall never forget thee, all lorn as thou art;
More dear in thy sorrow, thy gloom, and thy showers,
Than the rest of the world in their sunniest hours.

Wert thou all that I wish thee, great, glorious, and free,
First flower of the earth, and first gem of the sea,
I might hail thee with prouder, with happier brow,
But oh! could I love thee more deeply than now?

No, thy chains as they rankle, thy blood as it runs,
But make thee more painfully dear to thy sons—
Whose hearts, like the young of the desert-bird's nest,
Drink love in each life-drop that flows from thy breast.

WREATH THE BOWL.

Wreath the bowl
With flowers of soul,
The brightest Wit can find us;
We'll take a flight
Tow'rds heaven to-night,
And leave dull earth behind us.
Should Love amid
The wreaths be hid,
That Joy, th' enchanter, brings us,
No danger fear,
While wine is near,
We'll drown him if he stings us;
Then, wreath the bowl
With flowers of soul,
The brightest Wit can find us;
We'll take a flight
Tow'rds heaven to-night,
And leave dull earth behind us.

'Twas nectar fed
Of old, 'tis said,
Their Junos, Joves, Apollos;
And man may brew
His nectar too,
The rich receipt's as follows:
Take wine like this,
Let looks of bliss
Around it well be blended,

Then bring Wit's beam
To warm the stream,
And there's your nectar, splendid!
So wreath the bowl
With flowers of soul,
The brightest Wit can find us;
We'll take a flight
Tow'rds heaven to-night,
And leave dull earth behind us.

Say, why did Time,
His glass sublime,
Fill up with sands unsightly,
When wine, he knew,
Runs brisker through
And sparkles far more brightly?
Oh, lend it us,
And, smiling thus,
The glass in two we'll sever,
Make pleasure glide
In double tide,
And fill both ends for ever!
Then wreath the bowl
With flowers of soul,
The brightest Wit can find us;
We'll take a flight
Tow'rds heaven to-night,
And leave dull earth behind us.

WHENE'ER I SEE THOSE SMILING EYES.

Whene'er I see those smiling eyes,
So full of hope, and joy, and light,
As if no cloud could ever rise,
To dim a heav'n so purely bright—
I sigh to think how soon that brow
In grief may lose its every ray,
And that light heart, so joyous now,
Almost forget it once was gay.

For time will come with all its blights,
The ruin'd hope, the friend unkind,
And love, that leaves, where'er it lights,
A chill'd or burning heart behind:—
While youth, that now like snow appears,
Ere sullied by the dark'ning rain,
When once 'tis touch'd by sorrow's tears
Can never shine so bright again.

IF THOU'LT BE MINE.

If thou'lt be mine, the treasures of air,
Of earth, and sea, shall lie at thy feet;
Whatever in Fancy's eye looks fair,
Or in Hope's sweet music sounds *most* sweet,
Shall be ours—if thou wilt be mine, love!

Bright flowers shall bloom wherever we rove,
A voice divine shall talk in each stream;
The stars shall look like worlds of love,
And this earth be all one beautiful dream
In our eyes—if thou wilt be mine, love!

And thoughts, whose source is hidden and high,
Like streams, that come from heaven-ward hills,
Shall keep our hearts, like meads, that lie
To be bathed by those eternal rills,
Ever green, if thou wilt be mine, love!

All this and more the Spirit of Love
Can breathe o'er them, who feel his spells;
That heaven, which forms his home above,
He can make on earth, wherever he dwells,
As thou'lt own,—if thou wilt be mine, love!

TO LADIES' EYES.

To Ladies' eyes around, boy,
We can't refuse, we can't refuse,
Though bright eyes so abound, boy,
'Tis hard to choose, 'tis hard to choose.
For thick as stars that lighten
Yon airy bow'rs, yon airy bow'rs,
The countless eyes that brighten
This earth of ours, this earth of ours.
But fill the cup—where'er, boy,
Our choice may fall, our choice may fall,
We're sure to find Love there, boy,
So drink them all! so drink them all!

Some looks there are so holy,
They seem but giv'n, they seem but giv'n,
As shining beacons, solely,
To light to heav'n, to light to heav'n.
While some—oh! ne'er believe them—
With tempting ray, with tempting ray,
Would lead us (God forgive them!)
The other way, the other way.

But fill the cup — where'er, boy,
Our choice may fall, our choice may fall,
We're sure to find Love there, boy,
So drink them all! so drink them all!

In some, as in a mirror,
Love seems portray'd, Love seems portray'd,
But shun the flatt'ring error,
'Tis but his shade, 'tis but his shade.
Himself has fix'd his dwelling
In eyes we know, in eyes we know,
And lips — but this is telling —
So here they go! so here they go!
Fill up, fill up — where'er, boy,
Our choice may fall, our choice may fall,
We're sure to find Love there, boy,
So drink them all! so drink them all!

FORGET NOT THE FIELD.

Forget not the field where they perish'd,
The truest, the last of the brave,
All gone — and the bright hope we cherish'd
Gone with them, and quench'd in their grave!

Oh! could we from death but recover
Those hearts as they bounded before,
In the face of high heav'n to fight over
That combat for freedom once more; —

Could the chain for an instant be riven
Which Tyranny flung round us then,
No, 'tis not in Man, nor in Heaven,
To let Tyranny bind it again!

But 'tis past — and, tho' blazon'd in story
The name of our Victor may be,
Accurst is the march of that glory
Which treads o'er the hearts of the free.

Far dearer the grave or the prison,
Illumed by one patriot name,
Than the trophies of all, who have risen
On Liberty's ruins to fame.

THEY MAY RAIL AT THIS LIFE.

They may rail at this life — from the hour I began it,
I found it a life full of kindness and bliss;
And, until they can show me some happier planet,
More social and bright, I'll content me with this.
As long as the world has such lips and such eyes,
As before me this moment enraptur'd I see,
They may say what they will of their orbs in the skies,
But this earth is the planet for you, love, and me.

In Mercury's star, where each moment can bring them
New sunshine and wit from the fountain on high,
Though the nymphs may have livelier poets to sing them,[1]
They've none, even there, more enamour'd than I.
And, as long as this harp can be waken'd to love,
And that eye its divine inspiration shall be,
They may talk as they will of their Edens above,
But this earth is the planet for you, love, and me.

In that star of the west, by whose shadowy splendour,
At twilight so often we've roam'd through the dew,
There are maidens, perhaps, who have bosoms as tender,
And look, in their twilights, as lovely as you.[2]
But tho' they were even more bright than the queen
Of that isle they inhabit in heaven's blue sea,
As I never those fair young celestials have seen,
Why — this earth is the planet for you, love, and me.

As for those chilly orbs on the verge of creation,
Where sunshine and smiles must be equally rare,
Did they want a supply of cold hearts for that station,
Heav'n knows we have plenty on earth we could spare.
Oh! think what a world we should have of it here,
If the haters of peace, of affection, and glee,
Were to fly up to Saturn's comfortless sphere,
And leave earth to such spirits as you, love, and me.

[1] Tous les habitans de Mercure sont vifs. — *Pluralité des Mondes.*

[2] La terre pourra être pour Vénus l'étoile du berger et la mère des amours, comme Vénus l'est pour nous. — *Pluralité des Mondes.*

OH FOR THE SWORDS OF FORMER TIME!

Oh for the swords of former time!
Oh for the men who bore them,
When arm'd for Right, they stood sublime,
And tyrants crouch'd before them:
When free yet, ere courts began
With honours to enslave him,
The best honours worn by Man
Were those which Virtue gave him.
Oh for the swords, &c. &c.

Oh for the Kings who flourish'd then!
Oh for the pomp that crown'd them,
When hearts and hands of freeborn men
Were all the ramparts round them.
When, safe built on bosoms true,
The throne was but the centre,
Round which Love a circle drew,
That Treason durst not enter.
Oh for the Kings who flourish'd then!
Oh for the pomp that crown'd them,
When hearts and hands of freeborn men
Were all the ramparts round them!

ST. SENANUS AND THE LADY.

ST. SENANUS. [1]

"Oh! haste and leave this sacred isle,
"Unholy bark, ere morning smile;
"For on thy deck, though dark it be,
"A female form I see;
"And I have sworn this sainted sod
"Shall ne'er by woman's feet be trod."

THE LADY.

"Oh! Father, send not hence my bark,
"Through wintry winds and billows dark:
"I come with humble heart to share
"Thy morn and evening prayer;
"Nor mine the feet, oh! holy Saint,
"The brightness of thy sod to taint."

The Lady's prayer Senanus spurn'd;
The winds blew fresh, the bark return'd;
But legends hint, that had the maid
Till morning's light delay'd;
And giv'n the saint one rosy smile,
She ne'er had left his lonely isle.

NE'ER ASK THE HOUR.

Ne'er ask the hour—what is it to us
How Time deals out his treasures?
The golden moments lent us thus,
Are not *his* coin, but Pleasure's.
If counting them o'er could add to their blisses,
I'd number each glorious second:
But moments of joy are, like Lesbia's kisses,
Too quick and sweet to be reckon'd.
Then fill the cup—what is it to us
How Time his circle measures?
The fairy hours we call up thus,
Obey no wand, but Pleasure's.

Young Joy ne'er thought of counting hours,
Till Care, one summer's morning,
Set up, among his smiling flowers,
A dial, by way of warning.
But Joy loved better to gaze on the sun,
As long as its light was glowing,
Than to watch with old Care how the shadow stole on,
And how fast that light was going.
So fill the cup—what is it to us
How Time his circle measures?
The fairy hours we call up thus,
Obey no wand, but Pleasure's.

SAIL ON, SAIL ON.

Sail on, sail on, thou fearless bark—
Wherever blows the welcome wind,
It cannot lead to scenes more dark,
More sad than those we leave behind.

[1] In a metrical life of St. Senanus, which is taken from an old Kilkenny MS., and may be found among the *Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ*, we are told of his flight to the island of Scattery, and his resolution not to admit any woman of the party; and that he refused to receive even a sister saint, St. Cannera, whom an angel had taken to the island for the express purpose of introducing her to him. The following was the ungracious answer of Senanus, according to his poetical biographer:

Cui Præsul, quid fœminis
Commune est cum monachis?
Nec te nec ullam aliam
Admittemus in insulam.

See the *Acta Sanct. Hib.*, page 610.

According to Dr. Ledwich, St. Senanus was no less a personage than the river Shannon; but O'Connor and other antiquarians deny the metamorphose indignantly.

Each wave that passes seems to say,
" Though death beneath our smile may be,
" Less cold we are, less false than they,
" Whose smiling wreck'd thy hopes and thee."

Sail on, sail on,—through endless space—
Through calm—through tempest—stop no [more:
The stormiest sea's a resting place
To him who leaves such hearts on shore.
Or—if some desert land we meet,
Where never yet false-hearted men
Profan'd a world, that else were sweet,—
Then rest thee, bark, but not till then.

THE PARALLEL.

YES, sad one of Sion [1], if closely resembling,
In shame and in sorrow, thy wither'd-up heart—
If drinking deep, deep, of the same " cup of trembling"
Could make us thy children, our parent thou art.

Like thee doth our nation lie conquer'd and broken,
And fall'n from her head is the once royal crown;
In her streets, in her halls, Desolation hath spoken,
And "while it is day yet, her sun hath gone down."[2]

Like thine doth her exile, 'mid dreams of returning,
Die far from the home it were life to behold;
Like thine do her sons, in the day of their mourning,
Remember the bright things that bless'd them of old.

Ah, well may we call her, like thee, "the Forsaken,"[3]
Her boldest are vanquish'd, her proudest are slaves;
And the harps of her minstrels, when gayest they waken,
Have tones 'mid their mirth like the wind over graves!

Yet hadst thou thy vengeance—yet came there the morrow,
That shines out, at last, on the longest dark night,
When the sceptre, that smote thee with slavery and sorrow,
Was shiver'd at once, like a reed, in thy sight.

When that cup, which for others the proud Golden City [4]
Had brimm'd full of bitterness, drench'd her own lips;
And the world she had trampled on heard, without pity,
The howl in her halls, and the cry from her ships.

When the curse Heaven keeps for the haughty came over
Her merchants rapacious, her rulers unjust,
And, a ruin, at last, for the earthworm to cover, [5]
The Lady of Kingdoms [6] lay low in the dust.

DRINK OF THIS CUP.

DRINK of this cup; you'll find there's a spell in
Its every drop 'gainst the ills of mortality;
Talk of the cordial that sparkled for Helen!
Her cup was a fiction, but this is reality.
Would you forget the dark world we are in,
Just taste of the bubble that gleams on the top of it;
But would you rise above earth, till akin
To Immortals themselves, you must drain every drop of it;
Send round the cup—for oh, there's a spell in
Its every drop 'gainst the ills of mortality;
Talk of the cordial that sparkled for Helen!
Her cup was a fiction, but this is reality.

Never was philter form'd with such power
To charm and bewilder as this we are quaffing;
Its magic began when, in Autumn's rich hour,
A harvest of gold in the fields it stood laughing.
There having, by Nature's enchantment, been fill'd
With the balm and the bloom of her kindliest weather,
This wonderful juice from its core was distill'd
To enliven such hearts as are here brought together.
Then drink of the cup—you'll find there's a spell in
Its every drop 'gainst the ills of mortality;
Talk of the cordial that sparkled for Helen!
Her cup was a fiction, but this is reality.

[1] These verses were written after the perusal of a treatise by Mr. Hamilton, professing to prove that the Irish were originally Jews.

[2] " Her sun is gone down while it was yet day." — *Jer.* xv. 9.

[3] " Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken." — *Isaiah*, lxii. 4.

[4] How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!" — *Isaiah*, xiv. 4.

[5] " Thy pomp is brought down to the grave . . . . . and the worms cover thee." — *Isaiah*, xiv. 11.

[6] " Thou shalt no more be called the Lady of Kingdoms." — *Isaiah*, xlvii. 5.

And though, perhaps — but breathe it to no one —
Like liquor the witch brew sat midnight so awful,
This philter in secret was first taught to flow on,
Yet 'tis n't less potent for being unlawful.
And, ev'n though it taste of the smoke of that flame,
Which in silence extracted its virtue forbidden —
Fill up — there's a fire in some hearts I could name,
Which may work too its charm, though as lawless and hidden.
So drink of the cup — for oh there's a spell in
Its every drop 'gainst the ills of mortality;
Talk of the cordial that sparkled for Helen!
Her cup was a fiction, but this is reality.

THE FORTUNE-TELLER.

Down in the valley come meet me to-night,
And I'll tell you your fortune truly
As ever was told, by the new-moon's light,
To a young maiden, shining as newly.

But, for the world, let no one be nigh,
Lest haply the stars should deceive me;
Such secrets between you and me and the sky
Should never go farther, believe me.

If at that hour the heav'ns be not dim,
My science shall call up before you
A male apparition, — the image of him
Whose destiny 'tis to adore you.

And if to that phantom you'll be kind,
So fondly around you he'll hover,
You'll hardly, my dear, any difference find
'Twixt him and a true living lover.

Down at your feet, in the pale moonlight,
He'll kneel, with a warmth of devotion —
An ardour, of which such an innocent sprite
You'd scarcely believe had a notion.

What other thoughts and events may arise,
As in destiny's book I've not seen them,
Must only be left to the stars and your eyes
To settle, ere morning, between them.

[1] Paul Zealand mentions that there is a mountain in some part of Ireland, where the ghosts of persons who have died in foreign lands walk about and converse with those they meet, like living people. If asked why they do not return to their homes, they say they are obliged to go to Mount Hecla, and disappear immediately.

[2] The particulars of the tradition respecting O'Donohue and his White Horse, may be found in Mr. Weld's Account of Killarney, or more fully detailed in Derrick's Letters. For many years after his death, the spirit of this hero is supposed to have been seen on the morning of May-day, gliding over the lake on his favourite white horse, to the sound of sweet unearthly music, and preceded by groups of youths and maidens, who flung wreaths of delicate spring flowers in his path.

Among other stories, connected with this Legend of the Lakes, it is said that there was a young and beautiful girl whose imagination was so impressed with the idea of this visionary chieftain, that she fancied herself in love with him, and at last, in a fit of insanity, on a May-morning threw herself into the lake.

OH, YE DEAD!

Oh, ye Dead! oh, ye Dead![1] whom we know by
the light you give
From your cold gleaming eyes, though you move
like men who live,
Why leave you thus your graves,
In far off fields and waves,
Where the worm and the sea-bird only know your
bed,
To haunt this spot where all
Those eyes that wept your fall,
And the hearts that wail'd you, like your own, lie
dead?

It is true, it is true, we are shadows cold and wan;
And the fair and the brave whom we lov'd on earth
are gone;
But still thus ev'n in death,
So sweet the living breath
Of the fields and the flow'rs in our youth we wander'd o'er,
That ere, condemn'd, we go
To freeze 'mid Hecla's snow,
We would taste it awhile, and think we live once
more!

O'DONOHUE'S MISTRESS.

Of all the fair months, that round the sun
In light-link'd dance their circles run,
Sweet May, shine thou for me;
For still, when thy earliest beams arise,
That youth, who beneath the blue lake lies,
Sweet May, returns to me.

Of all the bright haunts, where daylight leaves
Its lingering smile on golden eves,
Fair Lake, thou'rt dearest to me;
For when the last April sun grows dim,
Thy Naïads prepare his steed[2] for him
Who dwells, bright Lake, in thee.

Of all the proud steeds, that ever bore
Young plumed Chiefs on sea or shore,
White Steed, most joy to thee;
Who still, with the first young glance of spring,
From under that glorious lake dost bring
My love, my chief, to me.

While, white as the sail some bark unfurls,
When newly launch'd, thy long mane [1] curls,
Fair Steed, as white and free;
And spirits, from all the lake's deep bowers,
Glide o'er the blue wave scattering flowers,
Around my love and thee.

Of all the sweet deaths that maidens die,
Whose lovers beneath the cold wave lie,
Most sweet that death will be,
Which, under the next May evening's light,
When thou and thy steed are lost to sight,
Dear love, I'll die for thee.

ECHO.

How sweet the answer Echo makes
To music at night,
When, rous'd by lute or horn, she wakes,
And far away, o'er lawns and lakes,
Goes answering light.

Yet Love hath echoes truer far,
And far more sweet,
Than e'er beneath the moonlight's star,
Of horn, or lute, or soft guitar,
The songs repeat.

'Tis when the sigh, in youth sincere,
And only then,—
The sigh that's breath'd for one to hear,
Is by that one, that only dear,
Breath'd back again!

OH BANQUET NOT.

Oh banquet not in those shining bowers,
Where Youth resorts, but come to me:
For mine's a garden of faded flowers,
More fit for sorrow, for age, and thee.

And there we shall have our feast of tears,
And many a cup in silence pour;
Our guests, the shades of former years,
Our toasts, to lips that bloom no more.

There, while the myrtle's withering boughs
Their lifeless leaves around us shed,
We'll brim the bowl to broken vows,
To friends long lost, the changed, the dead.
Or, while some blighted laurel waves
Its branches o'er the dreary spot,
We'll drink to those neglected graves,
Where valour sleeps, unnam'd, forgot.

THEE, THEE, ONLY THEE.

The dawning of morn, the daylight's sinking,
The night's long hours still find me thinking
Of thee, thee, only thee.
When friends are met, and goblets crown'd,
And smiles are near, that once enchanted,
Unreach'd by all that sunshine round,
My soul, like some dark spot, is haunted
By thee, thee, only thee.

Whatever in fame's high path could waken
My spirit once, is now forsaken
For thee, thee, only thee.
Like shores, by which some headlong bark
To th' ocean hurries, resting never,
Life's scenes go by me, bright or dark,
I know not, heed not, hastening ever
To thee, thee, only thee.

I have not a joy but of thy bringing,
And pain itself seems sweet when springing
From thee, thee, only thee.
Like spells, that nought on earth can break,
Till lips, that know the charm, have spoken,
This heart, howe'er the world may wake
Its grief, its scorn, can but be broken
By thee, thee, only thee.

SHALL THE HARP, THEN, BE SILENT.

Shall the Harp, then, be silent, when he who first gave
To our country a name, is withdrawn from all eyes?

[1] The boatmen at Killarney call those waves which come on a windy day, crested with foam, "O'Donohue's white horses."

Shall a Minstrel of Erin stand mute by the grave,
Where the first — where the last of her Patriots lies?

No—faint tho' the death-song may fall from his lips,
Tho' his Harp, like his soul, may with shadows be crost,
Yet, yet shall it sound, 'mid a nation's eclipse,
And proclaim to the world what a star hath been lost; — [1]

What a union of all the affections and powers
By which life is exalted, embellish'd, refin'd,
Was embraced in that spirit—whose centre was ours,
While its mighty circumference circled mankind.

Oh, who that loves Erin, or who that can see,
Through the waste of her annals, that epoch sublime—
Like a pyramid rais'd in the desert — where he
And his glory stand out to the eyes of all time;

That *one* lucid interval, snatch'd from the gloom
And the madness of ages, when fill'd with his soul,
A Nation o'erleap'd the dark bounds of her doom,
And for *one* sacred instant, touch'd Liberty's goal?

Who, that ever hath heard him — hath drank at the source
Of that wonderful eloquence, all Erin's own,
In whose high-thoughted daring, the fire, and the force,
And the yet untam'd spring of her spirit are shown?

An eloquence rich, wheresoever its wave
Wander'd free and triumphant, with thoughts that shone through,
As clear as the brook's "stone of lustre," and gave,
With the flash of the gem, its solidity too,

Who, that ever approach'd him, when free from the crowd,
In a home full of love, he delighted to tread
'Mong the trees which a nation had giv'n, and which bow'd,
As if each brought a new civic crown for his head —

Is there one, who hath thus, through his orbit of life
But at distance observ'd him — through glory, through blame,
In the calm of retreat, in the grandeur of strife,
Whether shining or clouded, still high and the same, —

Oh no, not a heart, that e'er knew him, but mourns
Deep, deep o'er the grave, where such glory is shrin'd —
O'er a monument Fame will preserve, 'mong the urns
Of the wisest, the bravest, the best of mankind!

[1] These lines were written on the death of our great patriot, Grattan, in the year 1820. It is only the two first verses that are either intended or fitted to be sung.

OH, THE SIGHT ENTRANCING.

Oh, the sight entrancing,
When morning's beam is glancing
O'er files array'd
With helm and blade,
And plumes, in the gay wind dancing!
When hearts are all high beating,
And the trumpet's voice repeating
That song, whose breath
May lead to death,
But never to retreating.
Oh the sight entrancing,
When morning's beam is glancing
O'er files array'd,
With helm and blade,
And plumes, in the gay wind dancing.

Yet, 'tis not helm or feather—
For ask yon despot, whether
His plumed bands
Could bring such hands
And hearts as ours together.
Leave pomps to those who need 'em—
Give man but heart and freedom,
And proud he braves
The gaudiest slaves
That crawl where monarchs lead 'em.
The sword may pierce the beaver,
Stone walls in time may sever,
'Tis mind alone,
Worth steel and stone,
That keeps men free for ever.
Oh that sight entrancing,
When the morning's beam is glancing,
O'er files array'd
With helm and blade,
And in Freedom's cause advancing!

SWEET INNISFALLEN.

SWEET Innisfallen, fare thee well,
May calm and sunshine long be thine!
How fair thou art let others tell,—
To *feel* how fair shall long be mine.

Sweet Innisfallen, long shall dwell
In memory's dream that sunny smile,
Which o'er thee on that evening fell,
When first I saw thy fairy isle.

'Twas light, indeed, too blest for one,
Who had to turn to paths of care—
Through crowded haunts again to run,
And leave thee bright and silent there;

No more unto thy shores to come,
But, on the world's rude ocean tost,
Dream of thee sometimes, as a home
Of sunshine he had seen and lost.

Far better in thy weeping hours
To part from thee, as I do now,
When mist is o'er thy blooming bowers,
Like sorrow's veil on beauty's brow.

For, though unrivall'd still thy grace,
Thou dost not look, as then, *too* blest,
But thus in shadow, seem'st a place
Where erring man might hope to rest—

Might hope to rest, and find in thee
A gloom like Eden's, on the day
He left its shade, when every tree,
Like thine, hung weeping o'er his way.

Weeping or smiling, lovely isle!
And all the lovelier for thy tears—
For though but rare thy sunny smile,
'Tis heav'n's own glance when it appears.

Like feeling hearts, whose joys are few,
But, when *indeed* they come, divine—
The brightest light the sun e'er threw
Is lifeless to one gleam of thine!

'TWAS ONE OF THOSE DREAMS.[1]

'TWAS one of those dreams, that by music are brought,
Like a bright summer haze, o'er the poet's warm thought—

When, lost in the future, his soul wanders on,
And all of this life, but its sweetness, is gone.

The wild notes he heard o'er the water were those
He had taught to sing Erin's dark bondage and woes,
And the breath of the bugle now wafted them o'er
From Dinis' green isle, to Glenà's wooded shore.

He listen'd—while, high o'er the eagle's rude nest,
The lingering sounds on their way lov'd to rest;
And the echoes sung back from their full mountain quire,
As if loth to let song so enchanting expire.

It seem'd as if ev'ry sweet note, that died here,
Was again brought to life in some airier sphere,
Some heav'n in those hills, where the soul of the strain
That had ceas'd upon earth was awaking again!

Oh forgive, if, while list'ning to music, whose breath
Seem'd to circle his name with a charm against death,
He should feel a proud Spirit within him proclaim,
"Even so shalt thou live in the echoes of Fame:

"Even so, tho' thy mem'ry should now die away,
"'Twill be caught up again in some happier day,
"And the hearts and the voices of Erin prolong,
"Through the answering Future, thy name and thy song."

[1] Written during a visit to Lord Kenmare, at Killarney.

FAIREST! PUT ON AWHILE.

FAIREST! put on awhile
These pinions of light I bring thee,
And o'er thy own Green Isle
In fancy let me wing thee.
Never did Ariel's plume,
At golden sunset hover
O'er scenes so full of bloom,
As I shall waft thee over.

Fields, where the Spring delays,
And fearlessly meets the ardour
Of the warm Summer's gaze,
With only her tears to guard her.
Rocks, through myrtle boughs
In grace majestic frowning;
Like some bold warrior's brows
That Love hath just been crowning.

Islets, so freshly fair,
That never hath bird come nigh them,
But from his course through air
He hath been won down by them;—[1]
Types, sweet maid, of thee,
Whose look, whose blush inviting,
Never did Love yet see
From Heav'n, without alighting.

Lakes, where the pearl lies hid,[2]
And caves, where the gem is sleeping,
Bright as the tears thy lid
Lets fall in lonely weeping.
Glens[3], where Ocean comes,
To 'scape the wild wind's rancour,
And Harbours, worthiest homes
Where Freedom's fleet can anchor.

Then, if, while scenes so grand,
So beautiful, shine before thee,
Pride for thy own dear land
Should haply be stealing o'er thee,
Oh, let grief come first,
O'er pride itself victorious—
Thinking how man hath curst
What Heaven had made so glorious!

QUICK! WE HAVE BUT A SECOND.

Quick! we have but a second,
Fill round the cup, while you may;
For Time, the churl, hath beckon'd,
And we must away, away!
Grasp the pleasure that's flying,
For oh, not Orpheus' strain
Could keep sweet hours from dying,
Or charm them to life again.
Then, quick! we have but a second,
Fill round the cup, while you may;
For Time, the churl, hath beckon'd,
And we must away, away!

See the glass, how it flushes,
Like some young Hebe's lip,
And half meets thine, and blushes
That thou shouldst delay to sip.
Shame, oh shame unto thee,
If ever thou see'st that day,
When a cup or lip shall woo thee,
And turn untouch'd away!
Then, quick! we have but a second,
Fill round, fill round, while you may;
For Time, the churl, hath beckon'd,
And we must away, away!

AND DOTH NOT A MEETING LIKE THIS.

And doth not a meeting like this make amends,
For all the long years I've been wand'ring away—
To see thus around me my youth's early friends,
As smiling and kind as in that happy day?
Though haply o'er some of your brows, as o'er mine,
The snow-fall of time may be stealing—what then?
Like Alps in the sunset, thus lighted by wine,
We'll wear the gay tinge of youth's roses again.

What soften'd remembrances come o'er the heart,
In gazing on those we've been lost to so long!
The sorrows, the joys, of which once they were part,
Still round them, like visions of yesterday, throng,
As letters some hand hath invisibly trac'd,
When held to the flame will steal out on the sight,
So many a feeling, that long seem'd effac'd,
The warmth of a moment like this brings to light.

And thus, as in memory's bark we shall glide,
To visit the scenes of our boyhood anew,
Though oft we may see, looking down on the tide,
The wreck of full many a hope shining through;
Yet still, as in fancy we point to the flowers,
That once made a garden of all the gay shore,
Deceiv'd for a moment, we'll think them still ours,
And breathe the fresh air of life's morning once more.[4]

So brief our existence, a glimpse, at the most,
Is all we can have of the few we hold dear;
And oft even joy is unheeded and lost,
For want of some heart, that could echo it, near.

[1] In describing the Skeligs (islands of the Barony of Forth), Dr. Keating says, "There is a certain attractive virtue in the soil which draws down all the birds that attempt to fly over it, and obliges them to light upon the rock."

[2] "Nennius, a British writer of the ninth century, mentions the abundance of pearls in Ireland. *Their* princes, he says, hung them behind their ears: and this we find confirmed by a present made A. C. 1094, by Gilbert, Bishop of Limerick, to Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, of a considerable quantity of Irish pearls."—*O'Halloran.*

[3] Glengariff.

[4] Jours charmans, quand je songe à vos heureux instans,
Je pense remonter le fleuve de mes ans;
Et mon cœur, enchanté sur sa rive fleurie,
Respire encore l'air pur du matin de la vie.

Ah, well may we hope, when this short life is gone,
To meet in some world of more permanent bliss,
For a smile, or a grasp of the hand, hast'ning on,
Is all we enjoy of each other in this.[1]

But, come, the more rare such delights to the heart,
The more we should welcome and bless them the more;
They're ours, when we meet,—they are lost when we part,
Like birds that bring summer, and fly when 'tis o'er.
Thus circling the cup, hand in hand, ere we drink,
Let Sympathy pledge us, thro' pleasure, thro' pain,
That, fast as a feeling but touches one link,
Her magic shall send it direct thro' the chain.

THE MOUNTAIN SPRITE.

In yonder valley there dwelt, alone,
A youth, whose moments had calmly flown,
Till spells came o'er him, and, day and night,
He was haunted and watch'd by a Mountain Sprite.

As once, by moonlight, he wander'd o'er
The golden sands of that island shore,
A foot-print sparkled before his sight—
'Twas the fairy foot of the Mountain Sprite!

Beside a fountain, one sunny day,
As bending over the stream he lay,
There peep'd down o'er him two eyes of light,
And he saw in that mirror the Mountain Sprite.

He turn'd, but, lo, like a startled bird,
That spirit fled!—and the youth but heard
Sweet music, such as marks the flight
Of some bird of song, from the Mountain Sprite.

One night, still haunted by that bright look,
The boy, bewilder'd, his pencil took,
And, guided only by memory's light,
Drew the once-seen form of the Mountain Sprite.

"Oh thou, who lovest the shadow," cried
A voice, low whisp'ring by his side,
"Now turn and see,"—here the youth's delight
Seal'd the rosy lips of the Mountain Sprite.

"Of all the Spirits of land and sea,"
Then rapt he murmur'd, "there's none like thee,
"And oft, oh oft, may thy foot thus light
"In this lonely bower, sweet Mountain Sprite!"

AS VANQUISH'D ERIN.

As vanquish'd Erin wept beside
The Boyne's ill-fated river,
She saw where Discord, in the tide,
Had dropp'd his loaded quiver.
"Lie hid," she cried, "ye venom'd darts,
"Where mortal eye may shun you;
"Lie hid—the stain of manly hearts,
"That bled for me, is on you."

But vain her wish, her weeping vain,—
As Time too well hath taught her—
Each year the Fiend returns again,
And dives into that water;
And brings, triumphant, from beneath
His shafts of desolation,
And sends them, wing'd with worse than death,
Through all her madd'ning nation.

Alas for her who sits and mourns,
Ev'n now, beside that river—
Unwearied still the Fiend returns,
And stor'd is still his quiver.
"When will this end, ye Powers of Good?"
She weeping asks for ever;
But only hears, from out that flood,
The Demon answer, "Never!"

DESMOND'S SONG.[2]

By the Feal's wave benighted,
No star in the skies,

[1] The same thought has been happily expressed by my friend Mr. Washington Irving, in his *Bracebridge Hall*, vol. i. p. 213:—*The sincere pleasure which I feel in calling this gentleman my friend*, is much enhanced by the reflection that he is too good an American, to have admitted me so readily to such a distinction, if he had not known that my feelings towards the great and free country that gave him birth, have been long such as every real lover of the liberty and happiness of the human race must entertain.

[2] "Thomas, the heir of the Desmond family, had accidentally been so engaged in the chase, that he was benighted near Tralee, and obliged to take shelter at the Abbey of Feal, in the house of one of his dependents, called Mac Cormac. Catherine, a beautiful daughter of his host, instantly inspired the Earl with a violent passion, which he could not subdue. He married her, and by this inferior alliance alienated his followers, whose brutal pride regarded this indulgence of his love as an unpardonable degradation of his family."—*Leland*, vol. ii.

To thy door by Love lighted,
I first saw those eyes.
Some voice whisper'd o'er me,
As the threshold I crost,
There was ruin before me,
If I lov'd, I was lost.

Love came, and brought sorrow
'Too soon in his train;
Yet so sweet, that to-morrow
'Twere welcome again.
Though misery's full measure
My portion should be,
I would drain it with pleasure,
If pour'd out by thee.

You, who call it dishonour
To bow to this flame,
If you've eyes, look but on her,
And blush while you blame.
Hath the pearl less whiteness
Because of its birth?
Hath the violet less brightness
For growing near earth?

No—Man for his glory
To ancestry flies;
But Woman's bright story
Is told in her eyes.
While the Monarch but traces
Through mortals his line,
Beauty, born of the Graces,
Ranks next to Divine!

THEY KNOW NOT MY HEART.

They know not my heart, who believe there can be
One stain of this earth in its feelings for thee;
Who think, while I see thee in beauty's young hour,
As pure as the morning's first dew on the flow'r,
I could harm what I love,—as the sun's wanton ray
But smiles on the dew-drop to waste it away.

No—beaming with light as those young features are,
There's a light round thy heart which is lovelier far:
It *is* not that cheek—'tis the soul dawning clear
Thro' its innocent blush makes thy beauty so dear;
As the sky we look up to, though glorious and fair,
Is look'd up to the more, because Heaven lies there!

I WISH I WAS BY THAT DIM LAKE.

I wish I was by that dim Lake,[1]
Where sinful souls their farewell take
Of this vain world, and half-way lie
In death's cold shadow, ere they die.
There, there, far from thee,
Deceitful world, my home should be;
Where, come what might of gloom and pain,
False hope should ne'er deceive again.

The lifeless sky, the mournful sound
Of unseen waters falling round;
The dry leaves, quiv'ring o'er my head,
Like man, unquiet ev'n when dead!
These, ay, these shall wean,
My soul from life's deluding scene,
And turn each thought, o'ercharg'd with gloom,
Like willows, downward tow'rds the tomb.

As they, who to their couch at night
Would win repose, first quench the light,
So must the hopes, that keep this breast
Awake, be quench'd, ere it can rest.
Cold, cold, this heart must grow,
Unmov'd by either joy or woe,
Like freezing founts, where all that's thrown
Within their current turns to stone.

SHE SUNG OF LOVE.

She sung of Love, while o'er her lyre
The rosy rays of evening fell,

[1] These verses are meant to allude to that ancient haunt of superstition, called Patrick's Purgatory. "In the midst of these gloomy regions of Donegall (says Dr. Campbell) lay a lake, which was to become the mystic theatre of this fabled and intermediate state. In the lake were several islands; but one of them was dignified with that called the Mouth of Purgatory, which, during the dark ages, attracted the notice of all Christendom, and was the resort of penitents and pilgrims from almost every country in Europe."

"It was," as the same writer tells us, "one of the most dismal and dreary spots in the North, almost inaccessible, through deep glens and rugged mountains, frightful with impending rocks, and the hollow murmurs of the western winds in dark caverns, peopled only with such fantastic beings as the mind, however gay, is, from strange association, wont to appropriate to such gloomy scenes." — *Strictures on the Ecclesiastical and Literary History of Ireland.*

As if to feed, with their *soft* fire,
The soul within that trembling shell.
The same rich light hung o'er her cheek,
And play'd around those lips that sung
And spoke, as flowers would sing and speak,
If Love could lend their leaves a tongue.

But soon the West no longer burn'd,
Each rosy ray from heav'n withdrew;
And, when to gaze again I turn'd,
The minstrel's form seem'd fading too.
As if *her* light and heav'n's were one,
The glory all had left that frame;
And from her glimmering lips the tone,
As from a parting spirit, came.[1]

Who ever lov'd, but had the thought
That he and all he lov'd must part?
Fill'd with this fear, I flew and caught
The fading image to my heart—
And cried, "Oh Love! is this thy doom?
"Oh light of youth's resplendent day!
"Must ye then lose your golden bloom,
"And thus, like sunshine, die away?"

SING—SING—MUSIC WAS GIVEN.

Sing—sing—Music was given,
To brighten the gay, and kindle the loving;
Souls here, like planets in Heaven,
By harmony's laws alone are kept moving.
Beauty may boast of her eyes and her cheeks,
But Love from the lips his true archery wings;
And she, who but feathers the dart when she speaks,
At once sends it home to the heart when she sings.
Then sing—sing—Music was given,
To brighten the gay, and kindle the loving;
Souls here, like planets in Heaven,
By harmony's laws alone are kept moving.

When Love, rock'd by his mother,
Lay sleeping as calm as slumber could make him,
"Hush, hush," said Venus, "no other
"Sweet voice but his own is worthy to wake him."
Dreaming of music he slumber'd the while
Till faint from his lip a soft melody broke,
And Venus, enchanted, look'd on with a smile,
While Love to his own sweet singing awoke.
Then sing—sing—Music was given,
To brighten the gay, and kindle the loving;
Souls here, like planets in Heaven,
By harmony's laws alone are kept moving.

THOUGH HUMBLE THE BANQUET.

Though humble the banquet to which I invite thee,
Thou'lt find there the best a poor bard can command:
Eyes, beaming with welcome, shall throng round, to light thee,
And Love serve the feast with his own willing hand.

And though Fortune may seem to have turn'd from the dwelling
Of him thou regardest her favouring ray,
Thou wilt find there a gift, all her treasures excelling,
Which, proudly he feels, hath ennobled his way.

'Tis that freedom of mind, which no vulgar dominion
Can turn from the path a pure conscience approves;
Which, with hope in the heart, and no chain on the pinion,
Holds upwards its course to the light which it loves.

'Tis this makes the pride of his humble retreat,
And, with this, though of all other treasures bereav'd,
The breeze of his garden to him is more sweet
Than the costliest incense that Pomp e'er receiv'd.

Then, come,—if a board so untempting hath power
To win thee from grandeur, its best shall be thine;
And there's one, long the light of the bard's happy bower,
Who, smiling, will blend her bright welcome with mine.

[1] The thought here was suggested by some beautiful lines in Mr. Rogers's Poem of *Human Life*, beginning—

"Now in the glimmering, dying light she grows
Less and less earthly."

I would quote the entire passage, did I not fear to put my own humble imitation of it out of countenance.

SING, SWEET HARP.

Sing, sweet Harp, oh sing to me
Some song of ancient days,
Whose sounds, in this sad memory,
Long buried dreams shall raise;—
Some lay that tells of vanish'd fame,
Whose light once round us shone;
Of noble pride, now turn'd to shame,
And hopes for ever gone.—
Sing, sad Harp, thus sing to me;
Alike our doom is cast,
Both lost to all but memory,
We live but in the past.

How mournfully the midnight air
Among thy chords doth sigh,
As if it sought some echo there
Of voices long gone by;—
Of Chieftains, now forgot, who seem'd
The foremost then in fame;
Of Bards who, once immortal deem'd,
Now sleep without a name.—
In vain, sad Harp, the midnight air
Among thy chords doth sigh;
In vain it seeks an echo there
Of voices long gone by.

Couldst thou but call those spirits round,
Who once, in bower and hall,
Sat listening to thy magic sound,
Now mute and mould'ring all;—
But, no; they would but wake to weep
Their children's slavery;
Then leave them in their dreamless sleep,
The dead, at least, are free!—
Hush, hush, sad Harp, that dreary tone,
That knell of Freedom's day;
Or, listening to its death-like moan,
Let me, too, die away.

SONG OF THE BATTLE EVE.

Time—the Ninth Century.

To-morrow, comrade, we
On the battle-plain must be,
There to conquer, or both lie low!
The morning star is up,—
But there's wine still in the cup,
And we'll take another quaff, ere we go, boy, go;
We'll take another quaff, ere we go.

'Tis true, in manliest eyes
A passing tear will rise,
When we think of the friends we leave lone;
But what can wailing do?
See, our goblet's weeping too!
With its tears we'll chase away our own, boy, our own;
With its tears we'll chase away our own.

But daylight's stealing on;—
The last that o'er us shone
Saw our children around us play;
The next—ah! where shall we
And those rosy urchins be?
But—no matter—grasp thy sword and away, boy, away;
No matter—grasp thy sword and away!

Let those, who brook the chain
Of Saxon or of Dane,
Ignobly by their firesides stay;
One sigh to home be given,
One heartfelt prayer to heaven,
Then, for Erin and her cause, boy, hurra! hurra! hurra!
Then, for Erin and her cause, hurra!

THE WANDERING BARD.

What life like that of the bard can be,—
The wandering bard, who roams as free
As the mountain lark that o'er him sings,
And, like that lark, a music brings
Within him, where'er he comes or goes,—
A fount that for ever flows!
The world's to him like some play-ground,
Where fairies dance their moonlight round;—
If dimm'd the turf where late they trod,
The elves but seek some greener sod;
So, when less bright his scene of glee,
To another away flies he!

Oh, what would have been young Beauty's doom,
Without a bard to fix her bloom?
They tell us, in the moon's bright round,
Things lost in this dark world are found;
So charms, on earth long pass'd and gone,
In the poet's lay live on.—
Would ye have smiles that ne'er grow dim?
You've only to give them all to him,
Who, with but a touch of Fancy's wand,
Can lend them life, this life beyond,
And fix them high, in Poesy's sky,—
Young stars that never die!

Then, welcome the bard where'er he comes,—
For, though he hath countless airy homes,
To which his wing excursive roves,
Yet still, from time to time, he loves
To light upon earth and find such cheer
As brightens our banquet here.
No matter how far, how fleet he flies,
You've only to light up kind young eyes,
Such signal-fires as here are given,—
And down he'll drop from Fancy's heaven,
The minute such call to love or mirth
Proclaims he's wanting on earth!

ALONE IN CROWDS TO WANDER ON.

Alone in crowds to wander on,
And feel that all the charm is gone
Which voices dear and eyes belov'd
Shed round us once, where'er we rov'd—
This, this the doom must be
Of all who've lov'd, and liv'd to see
The few bright things they thought would stay
For ever near them, die away.

Tho' fairer forms around us throng,
Their smiles to others all belong,
And want that charm which dwells alone
Round those the fond heart calls its own.
Where, where the sunny brow?
The long-known voice—where are they now?
Thus ask I still, nor ask in vain,
The silence answers all too plain.

Oh, what is Fancy's magic worth,
If all her art cannot call forth
One bliss like those we felt of old
From lips now mute, and eyes now cold?
No, no,—her spell is vain,—
As soon could she bring back again
Those eyes themselves from out the grave,
As wake again one bliss they gave.

I'VE A SECRET TO TELL THEE.

I've a secret to tell thee, but hush! not here,—
Oh! not where the world its vigil keeps:
I'll seek, to whisper it in thine ear,
Some shore where the Spirit of Silence sleeps;
Where summer's wave unmurm'ring dies,
Nor fay can hear the fountain's gush;
Where, if but a note her night-bird sighs,
The rose saith, chidingly, "Hush, sweet, hush!"

There, amid the deep silence of that hour,
When stars can be heard in ocean dip,
Thyself shall, under some rosy bower,
Sit mute, with thy finger on thy lip:
Like him, the boy[1], who born among
The flowers that on the Nile-stream blush,
Sits ever thus,—his only song
To earth and heaven, "Hush, all, hush!"

SONG OF INNISFAIL.

They came from a land beyond the sea,
And now o'er the western main
Set sail, in their good ships, gallantly,
From the sunny land of Spain.
"Oh, where's the Isle we've seen in dreams,
"Our destin'd home or grave?"[2]
Thus sung they as, by the morning's beams,
They swept the Atlantic wave.

And, lo, where afar o'er ocean shines
A sparkle of radiant green,
As though in that deep lay emerald mines,
Whose light through the wave was seen.
"Tis Innisfail[3]—'tis Innisfail!"
Rings o'er the echoing sea;
While, bending to heav'n, the warriors hail
That home of the brave and free.

Then turn'd they unto the Eastern wave,
Where now their Day-God's eye
A look of such sunny omen gave
As lighted up sea and sky.
Nor frown was seen through sky or sea,
Nor tear o'er leaf or sod,
When first on their Isle of Destiny
Our great forefathers trod.

[1] The God of Silence, thus pictured by the Egyptians.

[2] "Milesius remembered the remarkable prediction of the principal Druid, who foretold that the posterity of Gadelus should obtain the possession of a Western Island (which was Ireland), and there inhabit."—*Keating.*

[3] The Island of Destiny, one of the ancient names of Ireland.

THE NIGHT DANCE.

STRIKE the gay harp! see the moon is on high,
And, as true to her beam as the tides of the ocean,
Young hearts, when they feel the soft light of her eye.
Obey the mute call, and heave into motion.
Then, sound notes—the gayest, the lightest,
That ever took wing, when heav'n look'd brightest!
Again! Again!
Oh! could such heart-stirring music be heard
In that City of Statues described by romancers,
So wak'ning its spell, even stone would be stirr'd,
And statues themselves all start into dancers!

Why then delay, with such sounds in our ears.
And the flower of Beauty's own garden before us,—
While stars overhead leave the song of their spheres,
And list'ning to ours, hang wondering o'er us?
Again, that strain!—to hear it thus sounding
Might set even Death's cold pulses bounding—
Again! Again!
Oh, what delight when the youthful and gay,
Each with eye like a sunbeam and foot like a feather,
Thus dance, like the Hours to the music of May,
And mingle sweet song and sunshine together!

THERE ARE SOUNDS OF MIRTH.

THERE are sounds of mirth in the night-air ringing,
And lamps from every casement shown;
While voices blithe within are singing,
That seem to say "Come," in every tone.
Ah! once how light, in Life's young season,
My heart had leap'd at that sweet lay;
Nor paus'd to ask of greybeard Reason
Should I the syren call obey.

And, see—the lamps still livelier glitter,
The syren lips more fondly sound;
No, seek, ye nymphs, some victim fitter
To sink in your rosy bondage bound.
Shall a bard, whom not the world in arms
Could bend to tyranny's rude controul,
Thus quail, at sight of woman's charms,
And yield to a smile his freeborn soul?

Thus sung the sage, while, slyly stealing,
The nymphs their fetters around him cast,
And,—their laughing eyes, the while, concealing,—
Led Freedom's Bard their slave at last.
For the Poet's heart, still prone to loving,
Was like that rock of the Druid race,[1]
Which the gentlest touch at once set moving,
But all earth's power couldn't cast from its base.

OH! ARRANMORE, LOV'D ARRANMORE.

OH! Arranmore, lov'd Arranmore,
How oft I dream of thee,
And of those days when, by thy shore,
I wander'd young and free.
Full many a path I've tried, since then,
Through pleasure's flowery maze,
But ne'er could find the bliss again
I felt in those sweet days.

How blithe upon thy breezy cliffs
At sunny morn I've stood,
With heart as bounding as the skiffs
That danc'd along thy flood;
Or, when the western wave grew bright
With daylight's parting wing,
Have sought that Eden in its light
Which dreaming poets sing;—[2]

That Eden where th' immortal brave
Dwell in a land serene,—
Whose bow'rs beyond the shining wave,
At sunset, oft are seen.
Ah dream too full of sadd'ning truth!
Those mansions o'er the main
Are like the hopes I built in youth,—
As sunny and as vain!

[1] The Rocking Stones of the Druids, some of which no force is able to dislodge from their stations.

[2] "The inhabitants of Arranmore are still persuaded that, in a clear day, they can see from this coast Hy Brysail, or the Enchanted Island, the Paradise of the Pagan Irish, and concerning which they relate a number of romantic stories."—*Beaufort's Ancient Topography of Ireland.*

LAY HIS SWORD BY HIS SIDE.

Lay his sword by his side[1], it hath serv'd him too well
Not to rest near his pillow below;
To the last moment true, from his hand ere it fell,
Its point was still turn'd to a flying foe.
Fellow-lab'rers in life, let them slumber in death,
Side by side, as becomes the reposing brave,—
That sword which he loved still unbroke in its sheath,
And himself unsubdued in his grave.

Yet pause—for, in fancy, a still voice I hear,
As if breath'd from his brave heart's remains;—
Faint echo of that which, in Slavery's ear,
Once sounded the war-word, "Burst your chains!"
And it cries, from the grave where the hero lies deep,
"Tho' the day of your Chieftain for ever hath set,
"O leave not his sword thus inglorious to sleep,—
"It hath victory's life in it yet!

"Should some alien, unworthy such weapon to wield,
"Dare to touch thee, my own gallant sword,
"Then rest in thy sheath, like a talisman seal'd,
"Or return to the grave of thy chainless lord.
"But, if grasp'd by a hand that hath learn'd the proud use
"Of a falchion, like thee, on the battle-plain,—
"Then, at Liberty's summons, like lightning let loose,
"Leap forth from thy dark sheath again!

OH, COULD WE DO WITH THIS WORLD OF OURS.

Oh, could we do with this world of ours
As thou dost with thy garden bowers,
Reject the weeds and keep the flowers,
What a heaven on earth we'd make it!
So bright a dwelling should be our own,
So warranted free from sigh or frown,
That angels soon would be coming down,
By the week or month to take it.

Like those gay flies that wing through air,
And in themselves a lustre bear,
A stock of light, still ready there,
Whenever they wish to use it;
So, in this world I'd make for thee,
Our hearts should all like fire-flies be,
And the flash of wit or poesy
Break forth whenever we choose it.

While ev'ry joy that glads our sphere
Hath still some shadow hov'ring near,
In this new world of ours, my dear,
Such shadows will all be omitted:—
Unless they're like that graceful one,
Which, when thou'rt dancing in the sun,
Still near thee, leaves a charm upon
Each spot where it hath flitted!

THE WINE-CUP IS CIRCLING.

The wine-cup is circling in Almhin's hall,[2]
And its Chief, 'mid his heroes reclining,
Looks up, with a sigh, to the trophied wall,
Where his sword hangs idly shining.
When, hark! that shout
From the vale without,—
"Arm ye quick, the Dane, the Dane is nigh!"
Ev'ry Chief starts up
From his foaming cup,
And "To battle, to battle!" is the Finian's cry.

The minstrels have seized their harps of gold,
And they sing such thrilling numbers,—
'Tis like the voice of the Brave, of old,
Breaking forth from their place of slumbers!
Spear to buckler rang,
As the minstrels sang,
And the Sun-burst[3] o'er them floated wide;
While rememb'ring the yoke
Which their fathers broke,
"On for liberty, for liberty!" the Finians cried.

Like clouds of the night the Northmen came,
O'er the valley of Almhin lowering;
While onward mov'd, in the light of its fame,
That banner of Erin, towering.

[1] It was the custom of the ancient Irish, in the manner of the Scythians, to bury the favourite swords of their heroes along with them.

[2] The Palace of Fin Mac-Cumhal (the Fingal of Macpherson) in Leinster. It was built on the top of the hill, which has retained from thence the name of the Hill of Allen, in the county of Kildare. The Finians, or Fenii, were the celebrated National Militia of Ireland, which this Chief commanded. The introduction of the Danes in the above song is an anachronism common to most of the Finian and Ossianic legends.

[3] The name given to the banner of the Irish.

With the mingling shock
Rung cliff and rock,
While, rank on rank, the invaders die:
And the shout, that last
O'er the dying pass'd,
Was "Victory! victory!"—the Finian's cry.

THE DREAM OF THOSE DAYS.

THE dream of those days when first I sung thee is o'er,
Thy triumph hath stain'd the charm thy sorrows then wore;
And ev'n of the light which Hope once shed o'er thy chains,
Alas, not a gleam to grace thy freedom remains.

Say, is it that slavery sunk so deep in thy heart,
That still the dark brand is there, though chainless thou art;
And Freedom's sweet fruit, for which thy spirit long burn'd,
Now, reaching at last thy lip, to ashes hath turn'd?

Up Liberty's steep by Truth and Eloquence led,
With eyes on her temple fix'd, how proud was thy tread!
Ah, better thou ne'er had'st liv'd that summit to gain,
Or died in the porch, than thus dishonour the fane.

FROM THIS HOUR THE PLEDGE IS GIVEN.

FROM this hour the pledge is given,
From this hour my soul is thine:
Come what will, from earth or heaven,
Weal or woe, thy fate be mine.
When the proud and great stood by thee,
None dar'd thy rights to spurn;
And if now they're false and fly thee,
Shall I, too, basely turn?
No;—whate'er the fires that try thee,
In the same this heart shall burn.

Though the sea, where thou embarkest,
Offers now a friendly shore,
Light may come where all looks darkest,
Hope hath life, when life seems o'er.
And, of those past ages dreaming,
When glory deck'd thy brow,
Oft I fondly think, though seeming
So fall'n and clouded now,
Thou'lt again break forth, all beaming,—
None so bright, so blest as thou!

SILENCE IS IN OUR FESTAL HALLS.[1]

SILENCE is in our festal halls,—
Sweet Son of Song! thy course is o'er;
In vain on thee sad Erin calls,
Her minstrel's voice responds no more;—
All silent as th' Eolian shell
Sleeps at the close of some bright day,
When the sweet breeze, that wak'd its swell
At sunny morn, hath died away.

Yet, at our feasts, thy spirit long,
Awak'd by music's spell, shall rise;
For, name so link'd with deathless song
Partakes its charm and never dies:
And ev'n within the holy fane,
When music wafts the soul to heaven,
One thought to him, whose earliest strain
Was echoed there, shall long be given.

But, where is now the cheerful day,
The social night, when, by thy side,
He, who now weaves this parting lay,
His skilless voice with thine allied;
And sung those songs whose every tone,
When bard and minstrel long have past,
Shall still, in sweetness all their own,
Embalm'd by fame, undying last.

Yes, Erin, thine alone the fame,—
Or, if thy bard have shar'd the crown,
From thee the borrowed glory came,
And at thy feet is now laid down.
Enough, if Freedom still inpsire
His latest song, and still there be,
As evening closes round his lyre,
One ray upon its chords from thee.

[1] It is hardly necessary, perhaps, to inform the reader, that these lines are meant as a tribute of sincere friendship to the memory of an old and valued colleague in this work, Sir John Stevenson.

APPENDIX:

CONTAINING

THE ADVERTISEMENTS

ORIGINALLY PREFIXED TO THE DIFFERENT NUMBERS,

AND

THE PREFATORY LETTER ON IRISH MUSIC.

ADVERTISEMENT

PREFIXED

TO THE FIRST AND SECOND NUMBERS.

POWER takes the liberty of announcing to the Public a Work which has long been a *Desideratum* in this country. Though the beauties of the National Music of Ireland have been very generally felt and acknowledged, yet it has happened, through the want of appropriate English words, and of the arrangement necessary to adapt them to the voice, that many of the most excellent compositions have hitherto remained in obscurity. It is intended, therefore, to form a Collection of the best Original Irish Melodies, with characteristic Symphonies and Accompaniments; and with Words containing, as frequently as possible, allusions to the manners and history of the country. Sir John Stevenson has very kindly consented to undertake the arrangement of the Airs; and the lovers of Simple National Music may rest secure, that, in such tasteful hands, the native charms of the original melody will not be sacrificed to the ostentation of science.

In the Poetical Part, Power has had promises of assistance from several distinguished Literary Characters; particularly from Mr. Moore, whose lyrical talent is so peculiarly suited to such a task, and whose zeal in the undertaking will be best understood from the following Extract of a Letter which he has addressed to Sir John Stevenson on the subject:—

"I feel very anxious that a work of this kind should be undertaken. We have too long neglected the only talent for which our English neighbours ever deigned to allow us any credit. Our National Music has never been properly collected[1]; and, while the composers of the Continent have enriched their Operas and Sonatas with melodies borrowed from Ireland,—very often without even the honesty of acknowledgment,—we have left these treasures, in a great degree, unclaimed and fugitive. Thus our Airs, like too many of our countrymen, have, for want of protection at home, passed into the service of foreigners. But we are come, I hope, to a better period of both Politics and Music; and how much they are connected, in Ireland at least, appears too plainly in the tone of sorrow and depression which characterises most of our early Songs.

"The task which you propose to me, of adapting words to these airs, is by no means easy. The Poet who would follow the various sentiments which they express, must feel and understand that rapid fluctuation of spirits, that unaccountable mixture of gloom and levity, which composes the character of my countrymen, and has deeply tinged their Music. Even in their liveliest strains we find some melancholy note intrude,—some minor Third or flat Seventh,—which throws its shade as it passes, and makes even mirth interesting. If Burns had been an Irishman (and I would willingly give up all our claims upon Ossian for him), his heart would have been proud of such music, and his genius would have made it immortal.

"Another difficulty (which is, however, purely mechanical) arises from the irregular structure of many of those airs, and the lawless kind of metre which it will in consequence be necessary to adapt to them. In these instances the Poet must write, not to the eye, but to the ear; and must be content to have his verses of that description which Cicero mentions, '*Quos si cantu spoliaveris nuda remanebit oratio.*' That beautiful Air, 'The Twisting of the Rope,' which has all the romantic character of the Swiss *Ranz des Vaches*, is one of those wild and sentimental rakes which it will not be very easy to tie down in sober wedlock with Poetry. However, notwithstanding all these difficulties, and the very moderate portion of talent which I can bring to surmount them, the design appears to me so truly National, that I shall feel much pleasure in giving it all the assistance in my power.

"*Leicestershire, Feb.* 1807."

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE THIRD NUMBER.

IN presenting the Third Number of this work to the Public, Power begs leave to offer his acknow-

[1] The writer forgot, when he made this assertion, that the public are indebted to Mr. Bunting for a very valuable collection of Irish Music; and that the patriotic genius of Miss Owenson has been employed upon some of our finest airs.

ledgments for the very liberal patronage with which it has been honoured; and to express a hope that the unabated zeal of those who have hitherto so admirably conducted it, will enable him to continue it through many future Numbers with equal spirit, variety, and taste. The stock of popular Melodies is far from being exhausted; and there is still in reserve an abundance of beautiful Airs, which call upon Mr. Moore, in the language he so well understands, to save them from the oblivion to which they are hastening.

Power respectfully trusts he will not be thought presumptuous in saying, that he feels proud, as an Irishman, in even the very subordinate share which he can claim, in promoting a Work so creditable to the talents of the Country,—a Work which, from the spirit of nationality it breathes, will do more, he is convinced, towards liberalizing the feelings of society, and producing that brotherhood of sentiment which it is so much our interest to cherish, than could ever be effected by the mere arguments of well-intentioned but uninteresting politicians.

LETTER

TO

THE MARCHIONESS DOWAGER OF DONEGAL,

PREFIXED TO

THE THIRD NUMBER.

WHILE the publisher of these Melodies very properly inscribes them to the Nobility and Gentry of Ireland in general, I have much pleasure in selecting *one* from that number, to whom *my* share of the Work is particularly dedicated. I know that, though your Ladyship has been so long absent from Ireland, you still continue to remember it well and warmly,—that you have not suffered the attractions of English society to produce, like the taste of the lotus, any forgetfulness of your own country, but that even the humble tribute which I offer derives its chief claim upon your interest and sympathy from the appeal which it makes to your patriotism. Indeed, absence, however fatal to some affections of the heart, rather tends to strengthen our love for the land where we were born; and Ireland is the country, of all others, which an exile from it must remember with most enthusiasm. Those few darker and less amiable traits with which bigotry and misrule have stained her character, and which are too apt to disgust us upon a nearer intercourse, become at a distance softened, or altogether invisible. Nothing is remembered but her virtues and her misfortunes,—the zeal with which she has always loved liberty, and the barbarous policy which has always withheld it from her,—the ease with which her generous spirit might be conciliated, and the cruel ingenuity which has been exerted to "wring her into undutifulness."[1]

It has been often remarked, and still oftener felt, that in our music is found the truest of all comments upon our history. The tone of defiance, succeeded by the languor of despondency,—a burst of turbulence dying away into softness,—the sorrows of one moment lost in the levity of the next,—and all that romantic mixture of mirth and sadness, which is naturally produced by the efforts of a lively temperament to shake off, or forget, the wrongs which lie upon it. Such are the features of our history and character, which we find strongly and faithfully reflected in our music; and there are even many airs, which it is difficult to listen to, without recalling some period or event to which their expression seems applicable. Sometimes, for instance, when the strain is open and spirited, yet here and there shaded by a mournful recollection, we can fancy that we behold the brave allies of Montrose[2], marching to the aid of the royal cause, notwithstanding all the perfidy of Charles and his ministers, and remembering just enough of past sufferings to enhance the generosity of their present sacrifice. The plaintive melodies of Carolan takes us back to the times in which he lived, when our poor countrymen were driven to worship their God in caves, or to quit for ever the land of their birth,—like the bird that abandons the nest which human touch has violated. In many of these mournful songs we seem to hear the last farewell of the exile[3], mingling regret for the ties

[1] A phrase which occurs in a Letter from the Earl of Desmond to the Earl of Ormond, in Elizabeth's time.—*Scrinia Sacra*, as quoted by Curry.

[2] There are some gratifying accounts of the gallantry of these Irish auxiliaries in "The complete History of the Wars in Scotland under Montrose" (1660). See particularly, for the conduct of an Irishman at the battle of Aberdeen, chap. vi. p. 49.; and for a tribute to the bravery of Colonel O'Kyan, chap. vii. 55. Clarendon owns that the Marquis of Montrose was indebted for much of his miraculous success to the small band of Irish heroes under Macdonnell.

[3] The associations of the Hindu music, though more obvious and defined, were far less touching and characteristic. They divided their songs according to the seasons of the year, by which (says Sir William Jones) "they were able to recall the memory of autumnal merriment, at the close of the harvest, or of separation and melancholy during the cold months," &c.—*Asiatic Transactions*, vol. iii. on the Musical Modes of the

which he leaves at home, with sanguine hopes of the high honours that await him abroad,—such honours as were won on the field of Fontenoy, where the valour of Irish Catholics turned the fortune of the day, and extorted from George the Second that memorable exclamation, "Cursed be the laws which deprive me of such subjects!"

Though much has been said of the antiquity of our music, it is certain that our finest and most popular airs are modern; and perhaps we may look no further than the last disgraceful century for the origin of most of those wild and melancholy strains, which were at once the offspring and solace of grief, and were applied to the mind as music was formerly to the body, "decantare loca dolentia." Mr. Pinkerton is of opinion [1] that none of the Scotch popular airs are as old as the middle of the sixteenth century; and though musical antiquaries refer us, for some of our melodies, to so early a period as the fifth century, I am persuaded that there are few, of a *civilized* description, (and by this I mean to exclude all the savage Ceanans, Cries [2], &c.) which can claim quite so ancient a date as Mr. Pinkerton allows to the Scotch. But music is not the only subject upon which our taste for antiquity has been rather unreasonably indulged; and, however heretical it may be to dissent from these romantic speculations, I cannot help thinking that it is possible to love our country very zealously, and to feel deeply interested in her honour and happiness, without believing that Irish was the language spoken in Paradise [3]; that our ancestors were kind enough to take the trouble of polishing the Greeks [4], or that Abaris, the Hyperborean, was a native of the North of Ireland. [5]

By some of these zealous antiquarians it has been imagined that the Irish were early acquainted with counter-point [6]; and they endeavour to support this conjecture by a well-known passage in Giraldus, where he dilates, with such elaborate praise, upon the beauties of our national minstrelsy. But the terms of this eulogy are much too vague, too deficient in technical accuracy, to prove that even Giraldus himself knew any thing of the artifice of counter-point. There are many expressions in the Greek and Latin writers which might be cited, with much more plausibility, to prove that they understood the arrangement of music in parts [7]; and it is in general now conceded, I believe, by the learned, that, however grand and pathetic the melody of the ancients may have been, it was reserved for the ingenuity of modern Science to transmit the "light of Song" through the variegating prism of Harmony.

Indeed, the irregular scale of the early Irish (in which, as in the music of Scotland, the interval of the fourth was wanting [8],) must have furnished but wild and refractory subjects to the harmonist. It was only when the invention of Guido began to be known, and the powers of the harp [9] were en-

Hindus.—What the Abbé du Bos says of the symphonies of Lully, may be asserted, with much more probability, of our bold and impassioned airs:—"Elles auroient produit de ces effets, qui nous paroissent fabuleux dans le récit des anciens, si on les avoit fait entendre à des hommes d'un naturel aussi vif que les Athéniens."—*Réflex. sur la Peinture*, &c. tom. i. sect. 45.

[1] Dissertation, prefixed to the 2d volume of his Scottish Ballads.

[2] Of which some genuine specimens may be found at the end of Mr. Walker's Work upon the Irish bards. Mr. Bunting has disfigured his last splendid volume by too many of these barbarous rhapsodies.

[3] See Advertisement to the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Dublin.

[4] O'Halloran, vol. i. part iv. chap. vii.

[5] Id. ib. chap. vi.

[6] It is also supposed, but with as little proof, that they understood the diésis, or enharmonic interval.—The Greeks seem to have formed their ears to this delicate gradation of sound; and, whatever difficulties or objections may lie in the way of its *practical* use, we must agree with Mersenne (Préludes de l'Harmonie, Quest. 7.), that the *theory* of Music would be imperfect without it. Even in practice, too, as Tosi, among others, very justly remarks, (Observations on Florid Song, chap. i. sect. 16.) there is no good performer on the violin who does not make a sensible difference between D sharp and E flat, though, from the imperfection of the instrument, they are the same notes upon the piano-forte. The effect of modulation by enharmonic transitions is also very striking and beautiful.

[7] The words ποικιλια and ετεροφωνια, in a Passage of Plato, and some expressions of Cicero, in Fragment. lib. ii. de Republ., induced the Abbé Fraguier to maintain that the ancients had a knowledge of counterpoint. M. Burette, however, has answered him, I think, satisfactorily. (Examen d'un Passage de Platon, in the 3d vol. of Histoire de l'Acad.) M. Huet is of opinion (Pensées Diverses), that what Cicero says of the music of the spheres, in his dream of Scipio, is sufficient to prove an acquaintance with harmony; but one of the strongest passages, which I recollect, in favour of this supposition, occurs in the Treatise (Περι Κοσμου) attributed to Aristotle—Μουσικη δε οξεις αμα και βαρεις, κ. τ. λ.

[8] Another lawless peculiarity of our music is the frequent occurrence of, what composers call, consecutive fifths; but this, I must say, is an irregularity which can hardly be avoided by persons not conversant with all the rules of composition. If I may venture, indeed, to cite my own wild attempts in this way, it is a fault which I find myself continually committing, and which has even, at times, appeared so pleasing to my ear, that I have surrendered it to the critic with no small reluctance. May there not be a little pedantry in adhering too rigidly to this rule?—I have been told that there are instances in Haydn, of an undisguised succession of fifths; and Mr. Shield, in his Introduction to Harmony, seems to intimate that Handel has been sometimes guilty of the same irregularity.

[9] A singular oversight occurs in an Essay upon the Irish Harp, by Mr. Beauford, which is inserted in the Appendix to Walker's Historical Memoirs:—"The Irish (says he), according to Bromton, in the reign of Henry II. had two kinds of Harps, 'Hibernici tamen in duobus musici generis instrumentis, quamvis præcipitem et velocem, suavem tamen et jucundum: the one greatly bold and quick, the other soft and pleasing.'—How a man of Mr. Beauford's learning could so

larged by additional strings, that our airs can be supposed to have assumed the sweet character which interests us at present; and while the Scotch persevered in the old mutilation of the scale[1], our music became by degrees more amenable to the laws of harmony and counterpoint.

While profiting, however, by the improvements of the moderns, our style still keeps its original character sacred from their refinements; and though Carolan, it appears, had frequent opportunities of hearing the works of Geminiani and other great masters, we but rarely find him sacrificing his native simplicity to any ambition of their ornaments, or affectation of their science. In that curious composition, indeed, called his Concerto, it is evident that he laboured to imitate Corelli; and this union of manners, so very dissimilar, produces the same kind of uneasy sensation which is felt at a mixture of different styles of architecture. In general, however, the artless flow of our music has preserved itself free from all tinge of foreign innovation[2]; and the chief corruptions of which we have to complain arise from the unskilful performance of our own itinerant musicians, from whom, too frequently, the airs are noted down, encumbered by their tasteless decorations, and responsible for all their ignorant anomalies. Though it be sometimes impossible to trace the original strain, yet, in most of them, "auri per ramos *aura* refulget[3]," the pure gold of the melody shines through the ungraceful foliage which surrounds it, —and the most delicate and difficult duty of a compiler is to endeavour, by retrenching these inelegant superfluities, and collating the various methods of playing or singing each air, to restore the regularity of its form, and the chaste simplicity of its character.

I must again observe, that in doubting the antiquity of our music, my scepticism extends but to those polished specimens of the art, which it is difficult to conceive anterior to the dawn of modern improvement; and that I would by no means invalidate the claims of Ireland to as early a rank in the annals of minstrelsy, as the most zealous antiquary may be inclined to allow her. In addition, indeed, to the power which music must always have possessed over the minds of a people so ardent and susceptible, the stimulus of persecution was not wanting to quicken our taste into enthusiasm; the charms of song were ennobled with the glories of martyrdom, and the acts against minstrels, in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, were as successful, I doubt not, in making my countrymen musicians, as the penal laws have been in keeping them Catholics.

With respect to the verses which I have written for these melodies, as they are intended rather to be sung than read, I can answer for their sound with somewhat more confidence than for their sense. Yet it would be affectation to deny that I have given much attention to the task, and that it is not through any want of zeal or industry, if I unfortunately disgrace the sweet airs of my country by poetry altogether unworthy of their taste, their energy, and their tenderness.

Though the humble nature of my contributions to this work may exempt them from the rigours of literary criticism, it was not to be expected that those touches of political feeling, those tones of national complaint, in which the poetry sometimes sympathizes with the music, would be suffered to pass without censure or alarm. It has been accordingly said, that the tendency of this publication is mischievous[4], and that I have chosen these airs but as a vehicle of dangerous politics, — as fair and precious vessels (to borrow an image of St. Augustine[5]), from which the wine of error might be administered. To those who identify nationality with treason, and who see, in every effort for Ireland, a system of hostility towards England, — to those,

mistake the meaning, and mutilate the grammatical construction of this extract, is unaccountable. The following is the passage as I find it entire in Bromton; and it requires but little Latin to perceive the injustice which has been done to the words of the old Chronicler: — "Et cum Scotia, hujus terræ filia, utatur lyrâ, tympano et choro, ac Wallia citharâ, tubis et choro Hibernici tamen in duobus musici generis instrumentis, *quamvis præcipitem et velocem, suavem tamen et jucundam*, crispatis modulis et intricatis notulis, *efficiunt harmoniam*." — Hist. Anglic. Script. page 1075. I should not have thought this error worth remarking, but that the compiler of the Dissertation on the Harp, prefixed to Mr. Bunting's last Work, has adopted it implicitly.

[1] The Scotch lay claim to some of our best airs, but there are strong traits of difference between their melodies and ours. They had formerly the same passion for robbing us of our Saints, and the learned Dempster was for this offence called "The Saint Stealer." It must have been some Irishman, I suppose, who, by way of reprisal, stole Dempster's beautiful wife from him at Pisa. — See this anecdote in the *Pinacotheca* of Erythræus, part i. page 25.

[2] Among other false refinements of the art, our music (with the exception perhaps of the air called "Mamma, Mamma," and one or two more of the same ludicrous description,) has avoided that puerile mimicry of natural noises, motions, &c. which disgraces so often the works of even Handel himself. D'Alembert ought to have had better taste than to become the patron of this imitative affectation. — *Discours Préliminaire de l'Encyclopédie*. The reader may find some good remarks on the subject in Avison upon Musical Expression; a work which, though under the name of Avison, was written, it is said, by Dr. Brown.

[3] Virgil, Æneid, lib. vi. verse 204.

[4] See Letters, under the signatures of Timæus, &c. in the *Morning Post*, *Pilot*, and other papers.

[5] "Non accuso verba, quasi vasa electa atque pretiosa; sed vinum erroris quod cum eis nobis propinatur." — Lib. i. Confess. chap. xvi.

too, who, nursed in the gloom of prejudice, are alarmed by the faintest gleam of liberality that threatens to disturb their darkness,—like that Demophon of old, who, when the sun shone upon him, shivered [1],—to such men I shall not condescend to offer an apology for the too great warmth of any political sentiment which may occur in the course of these pages. But as there are many, among the more wise and tolerant, who, with feeling enough to mourn over the wrongs of their country, and sense enough to perceive all the danger of not redressing them, may yet be of opinion that allusions, in the least degree inflammatory, should be avoided in a publication of this popular description—I beg of these respected persons to believe, that there is no one who more sincerely deprecates than I do, any appeal to the passions of an ignorant and angry multitude; but that it is not through that gross and inflammable region of society, a work of this nature could ever have been intended to circulate. It looks much higher for its audience and readers,—it is found upon the piano-fortes of the rich and the educated,—of those who can afford to have their national zeal a little stimulated, without exciting much dread of the excesses into which it may hurry them; and of many whose nerves may be, now and then, alarmed with advantage, as much more is to be gained by their fears, than could ever be expected from their justice.

Having thus adverted to the principal objection, which has been hitherto made to the poetical part of this work, allow me to add a few words in defence of my ingenious coadjutor, Sir John Stevenson, who has been accused of having spoiled the simplicity of the airs by the chromatic richness of his symphonies, and the elaborate variety of his harmonies. We might cite the example of the admirable Haydn, who has sported through all the mazes of musical science, in his arrangement of the simplest Scottish melodies; but it appears to me, that Sir John Stevenson has brought to this task an innate and national feeling, which it would be vain to expect from a foreigner, however tasteful or judicious. Through many of his own compositions we trace a vein of Irish sentiment, which points him out as peculiarly suited to catch the spirit of his country's music; and, far from agreeing with those fastidious critics who think that his symphonies have nothing kindred with the airs which they introduce, I would say that, on the contrary, they resemble, in general, those illuminated initials of old manuscripts, which are of the same character with the writing which follows, though more highly coloured and more curiously ornamented.

In those airs, which he has arranged for voices, his skill has particularly distinguished itself, and, though it cannot be denied that a single melody most naturally expresses the language of feeling and passion, yet often, when a favourite strain has been dismissed, as having lost its charm of novelty for the ear, it returns, in a harmonised shape, with new claims on our interest and attention; and to those who study the delicate artifices of composition, the construction of the inner parts of these pieces must afford, I think, considerable satisfaction. Every voice has an air to itself, a flowing succession of notes, which might be heard with pleasure, independently of the rest;—so artfully has the harmonist (if I may thus express it) *gavelled* the melody, distributing an equal portion of its sweetness to every part.

If your Ladyship's love of Music were not well known to me, I should not have hazarded so long a letter upon the subject; but as, probably, I may have presumed too far upon your partiality, the best revenge you now can take is to write me just as long a letter upon Painting; and I promise to attend to your theory of the art, with a pleasure only surpassed by that which I have so often derived from your practice of it.—May the mind which such talents adorn, continue calm as it is bright, and happy as it is virtuous!

Believe me, your Ladyship's
Grateful Friend and Servant,
THOMAS MOORE.

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TO THE FOURTH NUMBER.

THIS Number of the Melodies ought to have appeared much earlier; and the writer of the words is ashamed to confess, that the delay of its publication must be imputed chiefly, if not entirely, to him. He finds it necessary to make this avowal, not only for the purpose of removing all blame from the Publisher, but in consequence of a rumour which has been circulated industriously in Dublin, that the Irish Government had interfered to prevent the continuance of the Work.

This would be, indeed, a revival of Henry the Eighth's enactments against Minstrels, and it is flattering to find that so much importance is at-

[1] This emblem of modern bigots was head-butler (τεραπιζοποιος) to Alexander the Great.—*Sext. Empir. Pyrrh. Hypoth.* Lib. i.

tached to our compilation, even by such persons as the inventors of the report. Bishop Lowth, it is true, was of opinion, that *one* song, like the *Hymn* to *Harmodius*, would have done more towards rousing the spirit of the Romans, than *all* the Philippics of Cicero. But we live in wiser and less musical times; ballads have long lost their revolutionary powers, and we question if even a "Lillibullero" would produce any very *serious* consequences at present. It is needless, therefore, to add, that there is no truth in the report; and we trust that whatever belief it obtained was founded more upon the character of *the Government* than of *the Work*.

The Airs of the last Number, though full of originality and beauty, were, in general, perhaps, too curiously selected to become all at once as popular as, we think, they deserve to be. The public are apt to be reserved towards new acquaintances in music, and this, perhaps, is one of the reasons why many modern composers introduce none but old friends to their notice. It is, indeed, natural that persons, who love music only by association, should be somewhat slow in feeling the charms of a new and strange melody; while those, on the other hand, who have a quick sensibility for this enchanting art, will as naturally seek and enjoy novelty, because in every variety of strain they find a fresh combination of ideas; and the sound has scarcely reached the ear, before the heart has as rapidly rendered it into imagery and sentiment. After all, however, it cannot be denied that the most popular of our National Airs are also the most beautiful; and it has been our wish, in the present Number, to select from those Melodies only which have long been listened to and admired. The least known in the collection is the Air of "*Love's Young Dream*;" but it will be found, I think, one of those easy and artless strangers whose merit the heart instantly acknowledges.

T. M.

Bury Street, St. James's,
Nov. 1811.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE FIFTH NUMBER.

It is but fair to those, who take an interest in this Work, to state that it is now very near its termination, and that the Sixth Number, which shall speedily appear, will, most probably, be the last of the series. Three volumes will then have been completed, according to the original plan, and the Proprietors desire me to say that a List of Subscribers will be published with the concluding Number.

It is not so much, I must add, from a want of materials, and still less from any abatement of zeal, or industry, that we have adopted the resolution of bringing our task to a close; but we feel so proud, still more for our country's sake than our own, of the general interest which this purely Irish Work has excited, and so anxious lest a particle of that interest should be lost by too long a protraction of its existence, that we think it wiser to take away the cup from the lip, while its flavour is yet, we trust, fresh and sweet, than to risk any further trial of the charm, or give so much as not to leave some wish for more. In speaking thus, I allude entirely to the Airs, which are, of course, the main attraction of these Volumes; and though we have still a great many popular and delightful Melodies to produce[1], it cannot be denied that we should soon experience considerable difficulty in equalling the richness and novelty of the earlier numbers, for which, as we had the choice of all before us, we naturally selected only the most rare and beautiful. The Poetry, too, would be sure to sympathise with the decline of the Music; and, however feebly my words have kept pace with the *excellence* of the Airs, they would follow their *falling off*, I fear, with wonderful alacrity. Both pride and prudence, therefore, counsel us to come to a close, while yet our Work is, we believe, flourishing and attractive, and thus, in the imperial attitude, "*stantes mori*," before we incur the charge either of altering for the worse, or, what is equally unpardonable, continuing too long the same.

We beg to say, however, that it is only in the event of our failing to find Airs as good as most of those we have given, that we mean thus to anticipate the natural period of dissolution (like those Indians who when their relatives become worn out, put them to death); and they who are desirous of retarding this Euthanasia of the Irish Melodies, cannot better effect their wish than by contributing to our collection,—not what are called curious Airs, for we have abundance of such, and they are, in general, *only* curious,—but any real sweet and expressive Songs of our Country, which

[1] Among these is *Savourna Deelish*, which I have been hitherto only withheld from selecting by the diffidence I feel in treading upon the same ground with Mr. Campbell, whose beautiful words to this fine Air have taken too strong possession of all ears and hearts, for me to think of following in his footsteps with any success. I suppose, however, as a matter of duty, I must attempt the air for our next Number.

either chance or research may have brought into their hands.

T. M.

Mayfield Cottage, Ashbourne,
December, 1813.

ADVERTISEMENT
TO THE SIXTH NUMBER.

In presenting this Sixth Number to the Public as our last, and bidding adieu to the Irish Harp for ever, we shall not answer very confidently for the strength of our resolution, nor feel quite sure that it may not turn out to be one of those eternal farewells which a lover takes occasionally of his mistress, merely to enhance, perhaps, the pleasure of their next meeting. Our only motive, indeed, for discontinuing the Work was a fear that our treasures were nearly exhausted, and a natural unwillingness to descend to the gathering of mere seed-pearl, after the really precious gems it has been our lot to string together. The announcement, however, of this intention, in our Fifth Number, has excited a degree of anxiety in the lovers of Irish Music, not only pleasant and flattering, but highly useful to us; for the various contributions we have received in consequence, have enriched our collection with so many choice and beautiful Airs, that should we adhere to our present resolution of publishing no more, it would certainly furnish an instance of forbearance unexampled in the history of poets and musicians. To one gentleman in particular, who has been for many years resident in England, but who has not forgot, among his various pursuits, either the language or the melodies of his native country, we beg to offer our best thanks for the many interesting communications with which he has favoured us. We trust that neither he nor any other of our kind friends will relax in those efforts by which we have been so considerably assisted; for, though our work must now be looked upon as defunct, yet—as Reaumur found out the art of making the cicada sing after it was dead—it is just possible that we may, some time or other, try a similar experiment upon the Irish Melodies.

T. M.

Mayfield, Ashbourne,
March, 1815.

[1] One gentleman, in particular, whose name I shall feel happy in being allowed to mention, has not only sent us nearly forty ancient airs, but has communicated many curious fragments of Irish poetry, and some interesting traditions current in the country where he resides, illustrated by sketches of the romantic scenery to which they refer; all of which, though too late for the present Number, will be of infinite service to us in the prosecution of our task.

ADVERTISEMENT
TO THE SEVENTH NUMBER.

Had I consulted only my own judgment, this Work would not have extended beyond the Six Numbers already published; which contain the flower, perhaps, of our national melodies, and have now attained a rank in public favour, of which I would not willingly risk the forfeiture, by degenerating, in any way, from those merits that were its source. Whatever treasures of our music were still in reserve, (and it will be seen, I trust, that they are numerous and valuable,) I would gladly have left to future poets to glean, and, with the ritual words "*tibi trado*," would have delivered up the torch into other hands, before it had lost much of its light in my own. But the call for a continuance of the work has been, as I understand from the Publisher, so general, and we have received so many contributions of old and beautiful airs[1], —the suppression of which, for the enhancement of those we have published, would too much resemble the policy of the Dutch in burning their spices,—that I have been persuaded, though not without much diffidence in my success, to commence a new series of the Irish Melodies.

T. M.

DEDICATION
TO
THE MARCHIONESS OF HEADFORT,
PREFIXED
TO THE TENTH NUMBER.

It is with a pleasure, not unmixed with melancholy, that I dedicate the last Number of the Irish Melodies to your Ladyship; nor can I have any doubt that the feelings with which you receive the tribute will be of the same mingled and saddened tone. To you,—who, though but little beyond the season of childhood, when the earlier numbers of this work appeared,—lent the aid of your beautiful voice, and, even then, exquisite feeling for music, to the happy circle who met, to sing them together, under your father's roof, the gratification, whatever it may be, which this humble offering brings, cannot be otherwise than darkened by the mournful reflection,

how many of the voices, which then joined with ours, are now silent in death!

I am not without hope that, as far as regards the grace and spirit of the Melodies, you will find this closing portion of the work not unworthy of what has preceded it. The Sixteen Airs of which the Number and the Supplement consists, have been selected from the immense mass of Irish music, which has been for years past accumulating in my hands; and it was from a desire to include all that appeared most worthy of preservation, that the four supplementary songs, which follow this Tenth Number, have been added.

Trusting that I may yet again, in remembrance of old times, hear our voices together in some of the harmonized airs of this Volume, I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Your Ladyship's
faithful Friend and Servant,
THOMAS MOORE.

Sloperton Cottage,
May, 1834.

NATIONAL AIRS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT is Cicero, I believe, who says, "*naturâ ad modos ducimur;* and the abundance of wild, indigenous airs, which almost every country, except England, possesses, sufficiently proves the truth of his assertion. The lovers of this simple, but interesting kind of music, are here presented with the first number of a collection, which, I trust, their contributions will enable us to continue. A pretty air without words resembles one of those *half* creatures of Plato, which are described as wandering in search of the remainder of themselves through the world. To supply this other half, by uniting with congenial words the many fugitive melodies which have hitherto had none,—or only such as are unintelligible to the generality of their hearers,—is the object and ambition of the present work. Neither is it our intention to confine ourselves to what are strictly called National Melodies, but, wherever we meet with any wandering and beautiful air, to which poetry has not yet assigned a worthy home, we shall venture to claim it as an *estray* swan, and enrich our humble Hippocrene with its song.

* * * * * *

T. M.

NATIONAL AIRS.

A TEMPLE TO FRIENDSHIP.[1]

(SPANISH AIR.)

"A Temple to Friendship," said Laura, enchanted,
"I'll build in this garden,—the thought is divine!"
Her temple was built, and she now only wanted
An image of Friendship to place on the shrine.
She flew to a sculptor, who set down before her
A Friendship, the fairest his art could invent;
But so cold and so dull, that the youthful adorer
Saw plainly this was not the idol she meant.

"Oh! never," she cried, "could I think of enshrining
"An image, whose looks are so joyless and dim;—
"But yon little god, upon roses reclining,
"We'll make, if you please, Sir, a Friendship of him."
So the bargain was struck; with the little god laden
She joyfully flew to her shrine in the grove:
"Farewell," said the sculptor, "you're not the first maiden
"Who came but for Friendship and took away Love."

[1] The thought is taken from a song by Le Prieur, called "La Statue de l'Amitié."

FLOW ON, THOU SHINING RIVER.

(Portuguese Air.)

Flow on, thou shining river;
But, ere thou reach the sea,
Seek Ella's bower, and give her
The wreaths I fling o'er thee.
And tell her thus, if she'll be mine,
The current of our lives shall be,
With joys along their course to shine,
Like those sweet flowers on thee.

But if, in wand'ring thither,
Thou find'st she mocks my prayer,
Then leave those wreathes to wither
Upon the cold bank there;
And tell her thus, when youth is o'er,
Her lone and loveless charms shall be
Thrown by upon life's weedy shore,
Like those sweet flowers from thee.

ALL THAT'S BRIGHT MUST FADE.

(Indian Air.)

All that's bright must fade,—
The brightest still the fleetest;
All that's sweet was made,
But to be lost when sweetest,
Stars that shine and fall;—
The flower that drops in springing;—
These, alas! are types of all
To which our hearts are clinging.
All that's bright must fade;—
The brightest still the fleetest;
All that's sweet was made
But to be lost when sweetest!

Who would seek or prize
Delights that end in aching?
Who would trust to ties
That every hour are breaking?
Better far to be
In utter darkness lying,
Than to be bless'd with light and see
That light for ever flying.
All that's bright must fade,—
The brightest still the fleetest;
All that's sweet was made
But to be lost when sweetest!

SO WARMLY WE MET.

(Hungarian Air.)

So warmly we met and so fondly we parted,
That which was the sweeter ev'n I could not tell,—
That first look of welcome her sunny eyes darted,
Or that tear of passion, which bless'd our farewell.
To meet was a heaven, and to part thus another,—
Our joy and our sorrow seem'd rivals in bliss;
Oh! Cupid's two eyes are not liker each other
In smiles and in tears, than that moment to this.

The first was like day-break, new, sudden, delicious,—
The dawn of a pleasure scarce kindled up yet;
The last like the farewell of daylight, more precious,
More glowing and deep, as 'tis nearer its set.
Our meeting, though happy, was ting'd by a sorrow
To think that such happiness could not remain;
While our parting, though sad, gave a hope that to-morrow
Would bring back the bless'd hour of meeting again.

THOSE EVENING BELLS.

(Air.—The Bells of St. Petersburgh.)

Those evening bells! those evening bells!
How many a tale their music tells,
Of youth, and home, and that sweet time,
When last I heard their soothing chime.

Those joyous hours are pass'd away;
And many a heart, that then was gay,
Within the tomb now darkly dwells,
And hears no more those evening bells.

And so 'twill be when I am gone;
That tuneful peal will still ring on,
While other bards shall walk these dells,
And sing your praise, sweet evening bells!

SHOULD THOSE FOND HOPES.

(PORTUGUESE AIR.)

SHOULD those fond hopes e'er forsake thee,[1]
Which now so sweetly thy heart employ;
Should the cold world come to wake thee
From all thy visions of youth and joy;
Should the gay friends, for whom thou wouldst banish
Him who once thought thy young heart his own,
All, like spring birds, falsely vanish,
And leave thy winter unheeded and lone;—

Oh! 'tis then that he thou hast slighted
Would come to cheer thee, when all seem'd o'er;
Then the truant, lost and blighted,
Would to his bosom be taken once more.
Like that dear bird we both can remember,
Who left us while summer shone round,
But, when chill'd by bleak December,
On our threshold a welcome still found.

REASON, FOLLY, AND BEAUTY.

(ITALIAN AIR.)

REASON, and Folly, and Beauty, they say,
Went on a party of pleasure one day:
Folly play'd
Around the maid,
The bells of his cap rung merrily out;
While Reason took
To his sermon-book—
Oh! which was the pleasanter no one need doubt,
Which was the pleasanter no one need doubt.

Beauty, who likes to be thought very sage,
Turn'd for a moment to Reason's dull page,
Till Folly said,
"Look here, sweet maid!"—
The sight of his cap brought her back to herself;
While Reason read
His leaves of lead,
With no one to mind him, poor sensible elf!
No,—no one to mind him, poor sensible elf!

Then Reason grew jealous of Folly's gay cap;
Had he that on, he her heart might entrap—
"There it is,"
Quoth Folly, "old quiz!"
(Folly was always good-natured, 'tis said,)
"Under the sun
"There's no such fun,
"As Reason with my cap and bells on his head,
"Reason with my cap and bells on his head!"

But Reason the head-dress so awkwardly wore,
That Beauty now lik'd him still less than before;
While Folly took
Old Reason's book,
And twisted the leaves in a cap of such *ton*,
That Beauty vow'd
(Though not aloud),
She lik'd him still better in that than his own,
Yes,—lik'd him still better in that than his own.

FARE THEE WELL, THOU LOVELY ONE!

(SICILIAN AIR.)

FARE thee well, thou lovely one!
Lovely still, but dear no more;
Once his soul of truth is gone,
Love's sweet life is o'er.
Thy words, whate'er their flatt'ring spell,
Could scarce have thus deceived;
But eyes that acted truth so well
Were sure to be believed.
Then, fare thee well, thou lovely one!
Lovely still, but dear no more;
Once his soul of truth is gone,
Love's sweet life is o'er.

Yet those eyes look constant still,
True as stars they keep their light;
Still those cheeks their pledge fulfil
Of blushing always bright.
'Tis only on thy changeful heart
The blame of falsehood lies;
Love lives in every other part,
But there, alas! he dies.
Then, fare thee well, thou lovely one!
Lovely still, but dear no more;
Once his soul of truth is gone,
Love's sweet life is o'er.

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[1] This is one of the many instances among my lyrical poems,—though the above, it must be owned, is an extreme case,—where the metre has been necessarily sacrificed to the structure of the air.

DOST THOU REMEMBER.

(PORTUGUESE AIR.)

Dost thou remember that place so lonely,
A place for lovers, and lovers only,
Where first I told thee all my secret sighs?
When, as the moonbeam, that trembled o'er thee,
Illum'd thy blushes, I knelt before thee,
And read my hope's sweet triumph in those eyes?
Then, then, while closely heart was drawn to heart,
Love bound us — never, never more to part!

And when I call'd thee by names the dearest[1]
That love could fancy, the fondest, nearest, —
"My life, my only life!" among the rest;
In those sweet accents that still enthral me,
Thou saidst, "Ah! wherefore thy life thus call me?
"Thy soul, thy soul's the name that I love best;
"For life soon passes, — but how bless'd to be
"That Soul which never, never parts from thee!"

OH, COME TO ME WHEN DAYLIGHT SETS.

(VENETIAN AIR.)

Oh, come to me when daylight sets;
Sweet! then come to me,
When smoothly go our gondolets
O'er the moonlight sea.
When Mirth's awake, and Love begins,
Beneath that glancing ray,
With sound of lutes and mandolins,
To steal young hearts away.
Then, come to me when daylight sets;
Sweet! then come to me,
When smoothly go our gondolets
O'er the moonlight sea.

Oh, then's the hour for those who love,
Sweet! like thee and me;
When all's so calm below, above,
In heav'n and o'er the sea.
When maidens sing sweet barcarolles[2]
And Echo sings again
So sweet, that all with ears and souls
Should love and listen then.

So, come to me when daylight sets;
Sweet! then come to me,
When smoothly go our gondolets
O'er the moonlight sea.

OFT, IN THE STILLY NIGHT.

(SCOTCH AIR.)

Oft, in the stilly night,
Ere Slumber's chain has bound me,
Fond Memory brings the light
Of other days around me;
The smiles, the tears,
Of boyhood's years,
The words of love then spoken;
The eyes that shone,
Now dimm'd and gone,
The cheerful hearts now broken!
Thus, in the stilly night,
Ere Slumber's chain hath bound me,
Sad Memory brings the light
Of other days around me.

When I remember all
The friends, so link'd together,
I've seen around me fall,
Like leaves in wintry weather;
I feel like one,
Who treads alone
Some banquet-hall deserted,
Whose lights are fled,
Whose garlands dead,
And all but he departed!
Thus, in the stilly night,
Ere Slumber's chain has bound me,
Sad Memory brings the light
Of other days around me.

HARK! THE VESPER HYMN IS STEALING.

(RUSSIAN AIR.)

Hark! the vesper hymn is stealing
O'er the waters soft and clear;

[1] The thought in this verse is borrowed from the original Portuguese words.

[2] Barcarolles, sorte de chansons en langue Vénitienne, que chantent les gondoliers à Venise. — *Rousseau, Dictionnaire de Musique.*

Nearer yet and nearer pealing,
And now bursts upon the ear:
Jubilate, Amen.
Farther now, now farther stealing,
Soft it fades upon the ear:
Jubilate, Amen.

Now, like moonlight waves retreating
To the shore, it dies along;
Now, like angry surges meeting,
Breaks the mingled tide of song:
Jubilate, Amen.
Hush! again, like waves, retreating
To the shore, it dies along:
Jubilate, Amen.

LOVE AND HOPE.

(Swiss Air.)

At morn, beside yon summer sea,
Young Hope and Love reclin'd;
But scarce had noon-tide come, when he
Into his bark leap'd smilingly,
And left poor Hope behind.

"I go," said Love, "to sail awhile
"Across this sunny main;"
And then so sweet his parting smile,
That Hope, who never dreamt of guile,
Believ'd he'd come again.

She linger'd there till evening's beam
Along the waters lay;
And o'er the sands, in thoughtful dream,
Oft trac'd his name, which still the stream
As often wash'd away.

At length a sail appears in sight,
And tow'rd the maiden moves!
'Tis Wealth that comes, and gay and bright,
His golden bark reflects the light,
But ah! it is not Love's.

Another sail—'twas Friendship show'd
Her night-lamp o'er the sea;
And calm the light that lamp bestow'd;
But Love had lights that warmer glow'd,
And where, alas! was he?

Now fast around the sea and shore
Night threw her darkling chain;
The sunny sails were seen no more,
Hope's morning dreams of bliss were o'er,—
Love never came again.

THERE COMES A TIME.

(German Air.)

There comes a time, a dreary time,
To him whose heart hath flown
O'er all the fields of youth's sweet prime,
And made each flower its own.
'Tis when his soul must first renounce
Those dreams so bright, so fond;
Oh! then's the time to die at once,
For life has nought beyond.

When sets the sun on Afric's shore,
That instant all is night;
And so should life at once be o'er,
When Love withdraws his light;—
Nor, like our northern day, gleam on
Through twilight's dim delay,
The cold remains of lustre gone,
Of fire long pass'd away.

MY HARP HAS ONE UNCHANGING THEME.

(Swedish Air.)

My harp has one unchanging theme,
One strain that still comes o'er
Its languid chord, as 'twere a dream
Of joy that's now no more.
In vain I try, with livelier air,
To wake the breathing string;
That voice of other times is there,
And saddens all I sing.

Breathe on, breathe on, thou languid strain,
Henceforth be all my own;
Though thou art oft so full of pain
Few hearts can bear thy tone.
Yet oft thou'rt sweet, as if the sigh,
The breath that Pleasure's wings
Gave out, when last they wanton'd by,
Were still upon thy strings.

OH, NO—NOT EV'N WHEN FIRST WE LOV'D.

(Cashmerian Air.)

Oh, no—not ev'n when first we lov'd,
Wert thou as dear as now thou art;

Thy beauty then my senses mov'd,
But now thy virtues bind my heart.
What was but Passion's sigh before,
Has since been turn'd to Reason's vow;
And, though I then might love thee *more*,
Trust me, I love thee *better* now.

Although my heart in earlier youth
Might kindle with more wild desire,
Believe me, it has gain'd in truth
Much more than it has lost in fire.
The flame now warms my inmost core,
That then but sparkled o'er my brow,
And, though I seem'd to love thee more,
Yet, oh, I love thee better now.

PEACE BE AROUND THEE.

(Scotch Air.)

Peace be around thee, wherever thou rov'st;
May life be for thee one summer's day,
And all that thou wishest, and all that thou lov'st,
Come smiling around thy sunny way!
If sorrow e'er this calm should break,
May even thy tears pass off so lightly,
Like spring-showers, they'll only make
The smiles that follow shine more brightly.

May Time, who sheds his blight o'er all,
And daily dooms some joy to death,
O'er thee let years so gently fall,
They shall not crush one flower beneath.
As half in shade and half in sun
This world along its path advances,
May that side the sun's upon
Be all that e'er shall meet thy glances!

COMMON SENSE AND GENIUS.

(French Air.)

While I touch the string,
Wreathe my brows with laurel,
For the tale I sing
Has, for once, a moral.
Common Sense, one night,
Though not used to gambols,
Went out by moonlight,
With Genius, on his rambles.
While I touch the string, &c.

Common Sense went on,
Many wise things saying;
While the light that shone
Soon set Genius straying.
One his eye ne'er rais'd
From the path before him;
T'*other* idly gaz'd
On each night-cloud o'er him.
While I touch the string, &c.

So they came, at last,
To a shady river;
Common Sense soon pass'd,
Safe, as he doth ever;
While the boy, whose look
Was in Heaven that minute,
Never saw the brook
But tumbled headlong in it!
While I touch the string, &c.

How the Wise One smil'd,
When safe o'er the torrent,
At that youth, so wild,
Dripping from the current!
Sense went home to bed;
Genius, left to shiver
On the bank, 'tis said,
Died of that cold river!
While I touch the string, &c.

THEN, FARE THEE WELL.

(Old English Air.)

Then, fare thee well, my own dear love,
This world has now for us
No greater grief, no pain above
The pain of parting thus,
Dear love!
The pain of parting thus.

Had we but known, since first we met,
Some few short hours of bliss,
We might, in numb'ring them, forget
The deep, deep pain of *this*,
Dear love!
The deep, deep pain of *this*.

But no, alas, we've never seen
One glimpse of pleasure's ray,
But still there came some cloud between,
And chas'd it all away,
Dear love!
And chas'd it all away.

Yet, ev'n could those sad moments last,
Far dearer to my heart
Were hours of grief, together past,
Than years of mirth apart,
Dear love!
Than years of mirth apart.

Farewell! our hope was born in fears,
And nurs'd 'mid vain regrets;
Like winter suns, it rose in tears,
Like them in tears it sets,
Dear love!
Like them in tears it sets.

GAILY SOUNDS THE CASTANET.

(MALTESE AIR.)

GAILY sounds the castanet,
Beating time to bounding feet,
When, after daylight's golden set,
Maids and youths by moonlight meet.
Oh, then, how sweet to move
Through all that maze of mirth,
Led by light from eyes we love
Beyond all eyes on earth.

Then, the joyous banquet spread
On the cool and fragrant ground,
With heav'n's bright sparklers overhead,
And still brighter sparkling round.
Oh, then, how sweet to say
Into some lov'd one's ear,
Thoughts reservld through many a day
To be thus whisper'd here.

When the dance and feast are done,
Arm in arm as home we stray,
How sweet to see the dawning sun
O'er her cheek's warm blushes play!
Then, too, the farewell kiss—
The words, whose parting tone
Lingers still in dreams of bliss,
That haunt young hearts alone.

LOVE IS A HUNTER-BOY.

(LANGUEDOCIAN AIR.)

LOVE is a hunter-boy,
Who makes young hearts his prey;
And, in his nets of joy,
Ensnares them night and day.
In vain conceal'd they lie—
Love tracks them every where;
In vain aloft they fly—
Love shoots them flying there.

But 'tis his joy most sweet,
At early dawn to trace
The print of Beauty's feet,
And give the trembler chase.
And if, through virgin snow,
He tracks her footsteps fair,
How sweet for Love to know
None went before him there.

COME, CHASE THAT STARTING TEAR AWAY.

(FRENCH AIR.)

COME, chase that starting tear away,
Ere mine to meet it springs;
To-night, at least, to-night be gay,
Whate'er to-morrow brings.
Like sun-set gleams, that linger late
When all is dark'ning fast,
Are hours like these we snatch from Fate—
The brightest, and the last.
Then, chase that starting tear, &c.

To gild the deep'ning gloom, if Heaven
But one bright hour allow,
Oh, think that one bright hour is given,
In all its splendour, now.
Let's live it out—then sink in night,
Like waves that from the shore
One minute swell, are touch'd with light,
Then lost for evermore!
Come, chase that starting tear, &c.

JOYS OF YOUTH, HOW FLEETING!

(PORTUGUESE AIR.)

WHISP'RINGS, heard by wakeful maids,
To whom the night-stars guide us;
Stolen walks through moonlight shades,
With those we love beside us,
Hearts beating,
At meeting;
Tears starting,
At parting;

Oh, sweet youth, how soon it fades!
Sweet joys of youth, how fleeting!

Wand'rings far away from home,
With life all new before us;
Greetings warm, when home we come,
From hearts whose prayers watch'd o'er us.
Tears starting,
At parting;
Hearts beating,
At meeting;
Oh, sweet youth, how lost on some!
To some, how bright and fleeting!

HEAR ME BUT ONCE.

(French Air.)

Hear me but once, while o'er the grave,
In which our Love lies cold and dead,
I count each flatt'ring hope he gave
Of joys, now lost, and charms now fled.

Who could have thought the smile he wore,
When first we met, would fade away?
Or that a chill would e'er come o'er
Those eyes so bright through many a day?
Hear me but once, &c.

WHEN LOVE WAS A CHILD.

(Swedish Air.)

When Love was a child, and went idling round,
'Mong flowers, the whole summer's day,
One morn in the valley a bower he found,
So sweet, it allur'd him to stay.

O'erhead, from the trees, hung a garland fair,
A fountain ran darkly beneath;—
'Twas Pleasure had hung up the flow'rets there;
Love knew it, and jump'd at the wreath.

But Love didn't know—and, at *his* weak years,
What urchin was likely to know?—
That Sorrow had made of her own salt tears
The fountain that murmur'd below.

He caught at the wreath—but with too much haste,
As boys when impatient will do—
It fell in those waters of briny taste,
And the flowers were all wet through.

This garland he now wears night and day;
And, though it all sunny appears
With Pleasure's own light, each leaf, they say,
Still tastes of the Fountain of Tears.

SAY, WHAT SHALL BE OUR SPORT TO-DAY?

(Sicilian Air.)

Say, what shall be our sport to-day?
There's nothing on earth, in sea, or air,
Too bright, too high, too wild, too gay,
For spirits like mine to dare!
'Tis like the returning bloom
Of those days, alas, gone by,
When I lov'd, each hour—I scarce knew whom—
And was bless'd—I scarce knew why.

Ay—those were days when life had wings,
And flew, oh, flew so wild a height,
That, like the lark which sunward springs,
'Twas giddy with too much light.
And, though of some plumes bereft,
With that sun, too, nearly set,
I've enough of light and wing still left
For a few gay soarings yet.

BRIGHT BE THY DREAMS.

(Welsh Air.)

Bright be thy dreams—may all thy weeping
Turn into smiles while thou art sleeping.
May those by death or seas remov'd,
The friends, who in thy spring-time knew thee,
All, thou hast ever priz'd or lov'd,
In dreams come smiling to thee!

There may the child, whose love lay deepest,
Dearest of all, come while thou sleepest;
Still as she was—no charm forgot—
No lustre lost that life had given;
Or, if chang'd, but changed to what
Thou'lt find her yet in Heaven!

GO, THEN—'TIS VAIN.

(Sicilian Air.)

Go, then—'tis vain to hover
Thus round a hope that's dead;
At length my dream is over;
'Twas sweet—'twas false—'tis fled!
Farewell! since nought it moves thee,
Such truth as mine to see—
Some one, who far less loves thee,
Perhaps more bless'd will be.

Farewell, sweet eyes, whose brightness
New life around me shed;
Farewell, false heart, whose lightness
Now leaves me death instead.
Go, now, those charms surrender
To some new lover's sigh—
One who, though far less tender,
May be more bless'd than I.

THE CRYSTAL-HUNTERS.

(Swiss Air.)

O'er mountains bright
With snow and light,
We Crystal Hunters speed along;
While rocks and caves,
And icy waves,
Each instant echo to our song;
And, when we meet with store of gems,
We grudge not kings their diadems.
O'er mountains bright
With snow and light,
We Crystal-Hunters speed along;
While grots and caves,
And icy waves,
Each instant echo to our song.

Not half so oft the lover dreams
Of sparkles from his lady's eyes,
As we of those refreshing gleams
That tell where deep the crystal lies;
Though, next to crystal, we too grant,
That ladies' eyes may most enchant.
O'er mountains bright, &c.

Sometimes, when on the Alpine rose
The golden sunset leaves its ray,
So like a gem the flow'ret glows,
We thither bend our headlong way;
And, though we find no treasure there,
We bless the rose that shines so fair.
O'er mountains bright
With snow and light,
We Crystal-Hunters speed along;
While rocks and caves,
And icy waves,
Each instant echo to our song.

ROW GENTLY HERE.

(Venetian Air.)

Row gently here,
My gondolier,
So softly wake the tide,
That not an ear,
On earth, may hear,
But hers to whom we glide.
Had Heaven but tongues to speak, as well
As starry eyes to see,
Oh, think what tales 'twould have to tell
Of wandering youths like me!

Now rest thee here,
My gondolier;
Hush, hush, for up I go,
To climb yon light
Balcony's height,
While thou keep'st watch below.
Ah! did we take for Heaven above
But half such pains as we
Take, day and night, for woman's love,
What Angels we should be!

OH, DAYS OF YOUTH.

(French Air.)

Oh, days of youth and joy, long clouded,
Why thus for ever haunt my view?
When in the grave your light lay shrouded,
Why did not Memory die there too?
Vainly doth Hope her strain now sing me,
Telling of joys that yet remain—
No, never more can this life bring me
One joy that equals youth's sweet pain.

Dim lies the way to death before me,
Cold winds of Time blow round my brow;
Sunshine of youth! that once fell o'er me,
Where is your warmth, your glory now?

'*Tis* not that then no pain could sting me;
'Tis not that now no joys remain;
Oh, 'tis that life no more can bring me
One joy so sweet as that worst pain.

WHEN FIRST THAT SMILE.

(VENETIAN AIR.)

WHEN first that smile, like sunshine, bless'd my sight,
Oh what a vision then came o'er me!
Long years of love, of calm and pure delight,
Seem'd in that smile to pass before me.
Ne'er did the peasant dream of summer skies,
Of golden fruit, and harvests springing,
With fonder hope than I of those sweet eyes,
And of the joy their light was bringing.

Where now are all those fondly promis'd hours?
Ah! woman's faith is like her brightness—
Fading as fast as rainbows, or day-flowers,
Or aught that's known for grace and lightness.
Short as the Persian's prayer, at close of day,
Should be each vow of Love's repeating;
Quick let him worship Beauty's precious ray—
Even while he kneels, that ray is fleeting!

PEACE TO THE SLUMB'RERS!

(CATALONIAN AIR.)

PEACE to the slumb'rers!
They lie on the battle-plain,
With no shroud to cover them;
The dew and the summer rain
Are all that weep over them.
Peace to the slumb'rers!

Vain was their brav'ry!—
The fallen oak lies where it lay
Across the wintry river;
But brave hearts, once swept away,
Are gone, alas! for ever.
Vain was their brav'ry!

Woe to the conq'ror!
Our limbs shall lie as cold as theirs
Of whom his sword bereft us,
Ere we forget the deep arrears
Of vengeance they have left us!
Woe to the conq'ror!

WHEN THOU SHALT WANDER.

(SICILIAN AIR.)

WHEN thou shalt wander by that sweet light
We used to gaze on so many an eve,
When love was new and hope was bright,
Ere I could doubt or thou deceive—
Oh, then, rememb'ring how swift went by
Those hours of transport, even *thou* mayst sigh.

Yes, proud one! even thy heart may own
That love like ours was far too sweet
To be, like summer garments, thrown
Aside, when pass'd the summer's heat;
And wish in vain to know again
Such days, such nights, as bless'd thee then.

WHO'LL BUY MY LOVE-KNOTS?

(PORTUGUESE AIR.)

HYMEN, late, his love-knots selling,
Call'd at many a maiden's dwelling,
None could doubt, who saw or knew them,
Hymen's call was welcome to them.
"Who'll buy my love knots?
"Who'll buy my love-knots?"
Soon as that sweet cry resounded,
How his baskets were surrounded!

Maids, who now first dreamt of trying
These gay knots of Hymen's tying;
Dames, who long had sat to watch him
Passing by, but ne'er could catch him;—
"Who'll buy my love-knots?
"Who'll buy my love-knots?"—
All at that sweet cry assembled;
Some laugh'd, some blush'd, and some trembled.

"Here are knots," said Hymen, taking
Some loose flowers, "of Love's own making;
"Here are gold ones—you may trust 'em"—
(These, of course, found ready custom).
"Come, buy my love-knots!
"Come, buy my love-knots!
"Some are labell'd 'Knots to tie men—
"Love the maker—Bought of Hymen.'"

Scarce their bargains were completed,
When the nymphs all cried, "We're cheated!
"See these flowers—they're drooping sadly;
"This gold-knot, too, ties but badly—

" Who'd buy such love-knots?
" Who'd buy such love-knots?
" Even this tie, with Love's name round it—
" All a sham—He never bound it."

Love, who saw the whole proceeding,
Would have laugh'd, but for good-breeding;
While Old Hymen, who was used to
Cries like that these dames gave loose to—
" Take back our love-knots!
" Take back our love-knots!"
Coolly said, " There's no returning
" Wares on Hymen's hands—Good morning!"

SEE, THE DAWN FROM HEAVEN.

(To an Air sung at Rome, on Christmas Eve.)

See, the dawn from Heaven is breaking,
O'er our sight,
And Earth, from sin awaking,
Hails the light!
See those groups of angels, winging
From the realms above,
On their brows, from Eden, bringing
Wreaths of Hope and Love.

Hark, their hymns of glory pealing
Through the air,
To mortal ears revealing
Who lies there!
In that dwelling, dark and lowly,
Sleeps the Heavenly Son,
He, whose home's above,—the Holy,
Ever Holy One!

NETS AND CAGES.[1]

(Swedish Air.)

Come, listen to my story, while
Your needle's task you ply;
At what I sing some maids will smile,
While some, perhaps, may sigh.
Though Love's the theme, and Wisdom blames
Such florid songs as ours,
Yet Truth sometimes, like eastern dames,
Can speak her thoughts by flowers.

[1] Suggested by the following remark of Swift:—" The reason why so few marriages are happy, is, because young ladies spend their time in making nets, not in making cages."

Then listen, maids, come listen, while
Your needle's task you ply;
At what I sing there's some may smile,
While some, perhaps, will sigh.

Young Cloe, bent on catching Loves,
Such nets had learn'd to frame,
That none, in all our vales and groves,
E'er caught so much small game:
But gentle Sue, less giv'n to roam,
While Cloe's nets were taking
Such lots of Loves, sat still at home,
One little Love-cage making.
Come, listen, maids, &c.

Much Cloe laugh'd at Susan's task;
But mark how things went on:
These light-caught Loves, ere you could ask
Their name and age, were gone!
So weak poor Cloe's nets were wove,
That, though she charm'd into them
New game each hour, the youngest Love
Was able to break through them.
Come, listen, maids, &c.

Meanwhile, young Sue, whose cage was wrought
Of bars too strong to sever,
One Love with golden pinions caught,
And caged him there for ever;
Instructing, thereby, all coquettes,
Whate'er their looks or ages,
That, though 'tis pleasant weaving Nets,
'Tis wiser to make Cages.

Thus, maidens, thus do I beguile
The task your fingers ply.—
May all who hear like Susan smile,
And not, like Cloe, sigh!

WHEN THROUGH THE PIAZZETTA.

(Venetian Air.)

When through the Piazetta
Night breathes her cool air,
Then, dearest Ninetta,
I'll come to thee there.
Beneath thy mask shrouded,
I'll know thee afar,
As Love knows, though clouded,
His own Evening Star.

In garb, then, resembling
Some gay gondolier,

I'll whisper thee, trembling,
" Our bark, love, is near:
" Now, now, while there hover
" Those clouds o'er the moon,
" 'Twill waft thee safe over
" Yon silent Lagoon."

GO, NOW, AND DREAM.

(Sicilian Air.)

Go, now, and dream o'er that joy in thy slumber—
Moments so sweet again ne'er shalt thou number.
Of Pain's bitter draught the flavour ne'er flies,
While Pleasure's scarce touches the lip ere it dies.
Go, then, and dream, &c.

That moon, which hung o'er your parting, so splendid,
Often will shine again, bright as she then did—
But, never more will the beam she saw burn
In those happy eyes, at your meeting, return.
Go, then, and dream, &c.

TAKE HENCE THE BOWL.

(Neapolitan Air.)

Take hence the bowl;—though beaming
Brightly as bowl e'er shone,
Oh, it but sets me dreaming
Of happy days now gone.
There, in its clear reflection,
As in a wizard's glass,
Lost hopes and dead affection,
Like shades, before me pass.

Each cup I drain brings hither
Some scene of bliss gone by;—
Bright lips, too bright to wither,
Warm hearts, too warm to die.
Till, as the dream comes o'er me
Of those long vanish'd years,
Alas, the wine before me
Seems turning all to tears!

FAREWELL, THERESA!

(Venetian Air.)

Farewell, Theresa! yon cloud that over
Heaven's pale night-star gath'ring we see,
Will scarce from that pure orb have pass'd, ere thy lover
Swift o'er the wide wave shall wander from thee.

Long, like that dim cloud, I've hung around thee,
Dark'ning thy prospects, sadd'ning thy brow;
With gay heart, Theresa, and bright cheek I found thee;
Oh, think how chang'd, love, how chang'd art thou now!

But here I free thee: like one awaking
From fearful slumber, thou break'st the spell;
'Tis over—the moon, too, her bondage is breaking—
Past are the dark clouds; Theresa, farewell!

HOW OFT, WHEN WATCHING STARS.

(Savoyard Air.)

Oft, when the watching stars grow pale,
And round me sleeps the moonlight scene,
To hear a flute through yonder vale
I from my casement lean.
" Come, come, my love!" each note then seems to say,
" Oh, come, my love! the night wears fast away!"
Never to mortal ear
Could words, though warm they be,
Speak Passion's language half so clear
As do those notes to me!

Then quick my own light lute I seek,
And strike the chords with loudest swell;
And, though they nought to others speak,
He knows their language well.
" I come, my love!" each note then seems to say,
" I come, my love!—thine, thine till break of day."
Oh, weak the power of words,
The hues of painting dim,
Compar'd to what those simple chords
Then say and paint to him!

WHEN THE FIRST SUMMER BEE.

(GERMAN AIR.)

When the first summer bee
O'er the young rose shall hover,
Then, like that gay rover,
I'll come to thee.
He to flowers, I to lips, full of sweets to the brim—
What a meeting, what a meeting for me and for him!
When the first summer bee, &c.

Then, to every bright tree
In the garden he'll wander;
While I, oh, much fonder,
Will stay with thee.
In search of new sweetness through thousands he'll run.
While I find the sweetness of thousands in one.
Then, to every bright tree, &c.

THOUGH 'TIS ALL BUT A DREAM.

(FRENCH AIR.)

Though 'tis all but a dream at the best,
And still, when happiest, soonest o'er,
Yet, even in a dream, to be bless'd
Is so sweet, that I ask for no more.
The bosom that opes
With earliest hopes,
The soonest finds those hopes untrue;
As flowers that first
In spring-time burst
The earliest wither too!
Ay—'tis all but a dream, &c.

Though by Friendship we oft are deceiv'd,
And find Love's sunshine soon o'ercast,
Yet Friendship will still be believ'd,
And Love trusted on to the last.
The web 'mong the leaves
The spider weaves
Is like the charm Hope hangs o'er men;
Though often she sees
'Tis broke by the breeze,
She spins the bright tissue again.
Ay—'tis all but a dream, &c.

WHEN THE WINE-CUP IS SMILING.

(ITALIAN AIR.)

When the wine-cup is smiling before us,
And we pledge round to hearts that are true, boy, true,
Then the sky of this life opens o'er us,
And Heaven gives a glimpse of its blue.
Talk of Adam in Eden reclining,
We are better, far better off thus, boy, thus;
For *him* but *two* bright eyes were shining—
See, what numbers are sparkling for us!

When on *one* side the grape-juice is dancing,
While on t'other a blue eye beams, boy, beams,
'Tis enough, 'twixt the wine and the glancing,
To disturb ev'n a saint from his dreams.
Yet, though life like a river is flowing,
I care not how fast it goes on, boy, on.
So the grape on its bank is still growing,
And Love lights the waves as they run.

WHERE SHALL WE BURY OUR SHAME?

(NEAPOLITAN AIR.)

Where shall we bury our shame?
Where, in what desolate place,
Hide the last wreck of a name
Broken and stain'd by disgrace?
Death may dissever the chain,
Oppression will cease when we're gone;
But the dishonour, the stain,
Die as we may, will live on.

Was it for this we sent out
Liberty's cry from our shore?
Was it for this that her shout
Thrill'd to the world's very core?
Thus to live cowards and slaves!—
Oh, ye free hearts that lie dead,
Do you not, ev'n in your graves,
Shudder, as o'er you we tread?

NE'ER TALK OF WISDOM'S GLOOMY SCHOOLS.

(MAHRATTA AIR.)

Ne'er talk of Wisdom's gloomy schools;
Give me the sage who's able

To draw his moral thoughts and rules
From the study of the table;—
Who learns how lightly, fleetly pass
This world and all that's in it,
From the bumper that but crowns his glass,
And is gone again next minute!

The diamond sleeps within the mine,
The pearl beneath the water;
While Truth, more precious, dwells in wine,
The grape's own rosy daughter.
And none can prize her charms like him,
Oh, none like him obtain her,
Who thus can, like Leander, swim
Through sparkling floods to gain her!

HERE SLEEPS THE BARD.

(Highland Air.)

Here sleeps the Bard who knew so well
All the sweet windings of Apollo's shell;
Whether its music roll'd like torrents near,
Or died, like distant streamlets, on the ear.
Sleep, sleep, mute bard; alike unheeded now
The storm and zephyr sweep thy lifeless brow;—
That storm, whose rush is like thy martial lay;
That breeze which, like thy love-song, dies away!

DO NOT SAY THAT LIFE IS WANING.

Do not say that life is waning,
Or that Hope's sweet day is set;
While I've thee and love remaining,
Life is in th' horizon yet.

Do not think those charms are flying,
Though thy roses fade and fall;
Beauty hath a grace undying,
Which in thee survives them all.

Not for charms, the newest, brightest,
That on other cheeks may shine,
Would I change the least, the slightest,
That is ling'ring now o'er thine.

THE GAZELLE.

Dost thou not hear the silver bell,
Through yonder lime-trees ringing?
'Tis my lady's light gazelle,
To me her love thoughts bringing,—
All the while that silver bell
Around his dark neck ringing.

See, in his mouth he bears a wreath,
My love hath kiss'd in tying;
Oh, what tender thoughts beneath
Those silent flowers are lying,—
Hid within the mystic wreath,
My love hath kiss'd in tying!

Welcome, dear gazelle, to thee,
And joy to her, the fairest,
Who thus hath breath'd her soul to me,
In every leaf thou bearest;
Welcome, dear gazelle, to thee,
And joy to her, the fairest!

Hail ye living, speaking flowers,
That breathe of her who bound ye;
Oh, 'twas not in fields, or bowers,
'Twas on her lips, she found ye;—
Yes, ye blushing, speaking flowers,
'Twas on her lips she found ye.

NO—LEAVE MY HEART TO REST.

No—leave my heart to rest, if rest it may,
When youth, and love, and hope, have pass'd away.
Couldst thou, when summer hours are fled,
To some poor leaf that's fall'n and dead,
Bring back the hue it wore, the scent it shed?
No—leave this heart to rest, if rest it may,
When youth, and love, and hope, have pass'd away.

Oh, had I met thee then, when life was bright,
Thy smile might still have fed its tranquil light;
But now thou com'st like sunny skies,
Too late to cheer the seaman's eyes,
When wreck'd and lost his bark before him lies!
No—leave this heart to rest, if rest it may,
Since youth, and love, and hope, have pass'd away.

WHERE ARE THE VISIONS.

"WHERE are the visions that round me once hover'd,
"Forms that shed grace from their shadows alone;
"Looks fresh as light from a star just discover'd,
"And voices that Music might take for her own?"

Time, while I spoke, with his wings resting o'er me,
Heard me say, "Where are those visions, oh where?"
And pointing his wand to the sunset before me,
Said, with a voice like the hollow wind, "There."

Fondly I look'd, when the wizard had spoken,
And there, mid the dim shining ruins of day,
Saw, by their light, like a talisman broken,
The last golden fragments of hope melt away.

WIND THY HORN, MY HUNTER BOY.

WIND thy horn, my hunter boy,
And leave thy lute's inglorious sighs;
Hunting is the hero's joy,
Till war his nobler game supplies.
Hark! the hound-bells ringing sweet,
While hunters shout, and the woods repeat,
Hilli-ho! Hilli-ho!

Wind again thy cheerful horn,
Till echo, faint with answ'ring, dies:
Burn, bright torches, burn till morn,
And lead us where the wild boar lies.
Hark! the cry, "He's found, he's found,"
While hill and valley our shouts resound,
Hilli-ho! Hilli-ho!

OH, GUARD OUR AFFECTION.

OH, guard our affection, nor e'er let it feel
The blight that this world o'er the warmest will steal:
While the faith of all round us is fading or past,
Let ours, ever green, keep its bloom to the last.

Far safer for Love 'tis to wake and to weep,
As he used in his prime, than go smiling to sleep;
For death on his slumber, cold death follows fast,
While the love that is wakeful lives on to the last.

And though, as Time gathers his clouds o'er our head,
A shade somewhat darker o'er life they may spread,
Transparent, at least, be the shadow they cast,
So that Love's soften'd light may shine through to the last.

SLUMBER, OH SLUMBER.

"SLUMBER, oh slumber; if sleeping thou mak'st
"My heart beat so wildly, I'm lost if thou wak'st."
Thus sung I to a maiden,
Who slept one summer's day,
And, like a flower o'erladen
With too much sunshine, lay.
Slumber, oh slumber, &c.

"Breathe not, oh breathe not, ye winds, o'er her cheeks;
"If mute thus she charm me, I'm lost when she speaks."
Thus sing I, while, awaking,
She murmurs words that seem
As if her lips were taking
Farewell of some sweet dream.
Breathe not, oh breathe not, &c.

BRING THE BRIGHT GARLANDS HITHER.

BRING the bright garlands hither,
Ere yet a leaf is dying;
If so soon they must wither,
Ours be their last sweet sighing.
Hark, that low dismal chime!
'Tis the dreary voice of Time.
Oh, bring beauty, bring roses,
Bring all that yet is ours;
Let life's day, as it closes,
Shine to the last through flowers.

Haste, ere the bowl's declining,
Drink of it now or never;
Now, while Beauty is shining,
Love, or she's lost for ever.
Hark! again that dull chime,
'Tis the dreary voice of Time.
Oh, if life be a torrent,
Down to oblivion going,
Like this cup be its current,
Bright to the last drop flowing!

IF IN LOVING, SINGING.

If in loving, singing, night and day
We could trifle merrily life away,
Like atoms dancing in the beam,
Like day-flies skimming o'er the stream,
Or summer blossoms, born to sigh
Their sweetness out, and die—
How brilliant, thoughtless, side by side,
Thou and I could make our minutes glide!
No atoms ever glanc'd so bright,
No day-flies ever danc'd so light,
Nor summer blossoms mix'd their sigh,
So close, as thou and I!

THOU LOV'ST NO MORE.

Too plain, alas, my doom is spoken,
Nor canst thou veil the sad truth o'er;
Thy heart is chang'd, thy vow is broken,
Thou lov'st no more—thou lov'st no more.

Though kindly still those eyes behold me,
The smile is gone, which once they wore;
Though fondly still those arms enfold me,
'Tis not the same—thou lov'st no more.

Too long my dream of bliss believing,
I've thought thee all thou wert before;
But now—alas! there's no deceiving,
'Tis all too plain, thou lov'st no more.

Oh, thou as soon the dead couldst waken,
As lost affection's life restore,
Give peace to her that is forsaken,
Or bring back him who loves no more.

WHEN ABROAD IN THE WORLD.

When abroad in the world thou appearest,
And the young and the lovely are there,
To my heart while of all thou'rt the dearest,
To my eyes thou'rt of all the most fair.
They pass, one by one,
Like waves of the sea,
That say to the Sun,
"See, how fair we can be."
But where's the light like thine,
In sun or shade to shine?
No—no, 'mong them all, there is nothing like thee,
Nothing like thee.

Oft, of old, without farewell or warning,
Beauty's self used to steal from the skies;
Fling a mist round her head, some fine morning,
And post down to earth in disguise;
But, no matter what shroud
Around her might be,
Men peep'd through the cloud,
And whisper'd, "'Tis She."
So thou, where thousands are,
Shin'st forth the only star,—
Yes, yes, 'mong them all, there is nothing like thee,
Nothing like thee.

KEEP THOSE EYES STILL PURELY MINE.

Keep those eyes still purely mine,
Though far off I be:
When on others most they shine,
Then think they're turn'd on me.

Should those lips as now respond
To sweet minstrelsy,
When their accents seem most fond,
Then think they're breath'd for me.

Make what hearts thou wilt thy own,
If when all on thee
Fix their charmed thoughts alone,
Thou think'st the while on me.

HOPE COMES AGAIN.

Hope comes again, to this heart long a stranger,
Once more she sings me her flattering strain;
But hush, gentle syren—for, ah, there's less danger
In still suffering on, than in hoping again.

Long, long, in sorrow, too deep for repining,
Gloomy, but tranquil, this bosom hath lain;
And joy coming now, like a sudden light shining
O'er eyelids long darken'd, would bring me but pain.

Fly then, ye visions, that Hope would shed o'er me;
Lost to the future, my sole chance of rest
Now lies not in dreaming of bliss that's before me,
But, ah—in forgetting how once I was blest.

O SAY, THOU BEST AND BRIGHTEST.

O SAY, thou best and brightest,
My first love and my last,
When he, whom now thou slightest,
From life's dark scene hath past,
Will kinder thoughts then move thee?
Will pity wake one thrill
For him who liv'd to love thee,
And dying, lov'd thee still?

If when, that hour recalling
From which he dates his woes,
Thou feel'st a tear-drop falling,
Ah, blush not while it flows:
But, all the past forgiving,
Bend gently o'er his shrine,
And say, "This heart, when living,
"With all its faults, was mine."

WHEN NIGHT BRINGS THE HOUR.

WHEN night brings the hour
Of starlight and joy,
There comes to my bower
A fairy-wing'd boy;
With eyes so bright,
So full of wild arts,
Like nets of light,
To tangle young hearts;
With lips, in whose keeping
Love's secret may dwell,
Like Zephyr asleep in
Some rosy sea-shell.
Guess who he is,
Name but his name,
And his best kiss,
For reward, you may claim.

Where'er o'er the ground
He prints his light feet,
The flow'rs there are found
Most shining and sweet:
His looks, as *soft*
As lightning in May,
Though dangerous oft,
Ne'er wound but in play:
And oh, when his wings
Have brush'd o'er my lyre,
You'd fancy its strings
Were turning to fire.
Guess who he is,
Name but his name,
And his best kiss,
For reward, you may claim.

LIKE ONE WHO, DOOM'D.

LIKE one who, doom'd o'er distant seas
His weary path to measure,
When home at length, with fav'ring breeze,
He brings the far-sought treasure;

His ship, in sight of shore, goes down,
That shore to which he hasted;
And all the wealth he thought his own
Is o'er the waters wasted.

Like him, this heart, thro' many a track
Of toil and sorrow straying,
One hope alone brought fondly back,
Its toil and grief repaying.

Like him, alas, I see that ray
Of hope before me perish,
And one dark minute sweep away
What years were given to cherish.

FEAR NOT THAT, WHILE AROUND THEE.

FEAR not that, while around thee
Life's varied blessings pour,
One sigh of hers shall wound thee,
Whose smile thou seek'st no more.
No, dead and cold for ever
Let our past love remain;
Once gone, its spirit never
Shall haunt thy rest again.

May the new ties that bind thee
Far sweeter, happier prove,

Nor e'er of me remind thee,
But by their truth and love.
Think how, asleep or waking,
Thy image haunts me yet;
But, how this heart is breaking
For thy own peace forget.

WHEN LOVE IS KIND.

When Love is kind,
Cheerful and free,
Love's sure to find
Welcome from me.

But when Love brings
Heartache or pang,
Tears, and such things—
Love may go hang!

If Love can sigh
For one alone,
Well pleas'd am I
To be that one.

But should I see
Love giv'n to rove
To two or three,
Then—good-by, Love!

Love must, in short,
Keep fond and true,
Through good report,
And evil too.

Else, here I swear,
Young Love may go,
For aught I care—
To Jericho.

THE GARLAND I SEND THEE.

The Garland I send thee was cull'd from those bowers
Where thou and I wander'd in long vanish'd hours;
Not a leaf or a blossom its bloom here displays,
But bears some remembrance of those happy days.

The roses were gather'd by that garden gate,
Where our meetings, though early, seem'd always too late;
Where ling'ring full oft through a summer-night's moon,
Our partings, though late, appear'd always too soon.

The rest were all cull'd from the banks of that glade,
Where, watching the sunset, so often we've stray'd,
And mourn'd, as the time went, that Love had no power
To bind in his chain even one happy hour.

HOW SHALL I WOO?

If I speak to thee in Friendship's name,
Thou think'st I speak too coldly;
If I mention Love's devoted flame,
Thou say'st I speak too boldly.
Between these two unequal fires,
Why doom me thus to hover?
I'm a friend, if such thy heart requires,
If more thou seek'st, a lover.
Which shall it be? How shall I woo?
Fair one, choose between the two.

Tho' the wings of Love will brightly play,
When first he comes to woo thee,
There's a chance that he may fly away
As fast as he flies *to* thee.
While Friendship, though on foot she come,
No flights of fancy trying,
Will, therefore, oft be found at home,
When Love abroad is flying.
Which shall it be? How shall I woo?
Dear one, choose between the two.

If neither feeling suits thy heart,
Let's see, to please thee, whether
We may not learn some precious art
To mix their charms together;
One feeling, still more sweet, to form
From two so sweet already—
A friendship that like love is warm,
A love like friendship steady.
Thus let it be, thus let me woo,
Dearest, thus we'll join the two.

SPRING AND AUTUMN.

Ev'ry season hath its pleasures;
Spring may boast her flow'ry prime,

Yet the vineyard's ruby treasures
Brighten Autumn's sob'rer time.
So Life's year begins and closes;
Days, though short'ning, still can shine;
What though youth gave love and roses,
Age still leaves us friends and wine.

Phillis, when she might have caught me,
All the Spring look'd coy and shy,
Yet herself in Autumn sought me,
When the flowers were all gone by.
Ah, too late;—she found her lover
Calm and free beneath his vine,
Drinking to the Spring-time over
In his best autumnal wine.

Thus may we, as years are flying,
To their flight our pleasures suit,
Nor regret the blossoms dying,
While we still may taste the fruit.
Oh, while days like this are ours,
Where's the lip that dares repine?
Spring may take our loves and flow'rs,
So Autumn leaves us friends and wine.

LOVE ALONE.

If thou wouldst have thy charms enchant our eyes,
First win our hearts, for there thy empire lies:
Beauty in vain would mount a heartless throne,
Her Right Divine is given by Love alone.

What would the rose with all her pride be worth,
Were there no sun to call her brightness forth?
Maidens, unlov'd, like flowers in darkness thrown,
Wait but that light, which comes from Love alone.

Fair as thy charms in yonder glass appear,
Trust not their bloom, they'll fade from year to year:
Wouldst thou they still should shine as first they shone,
Go, fix thy mirror in Love's eyes alone.

SACRED SONGS.

TO

EDWARD TUITE DALTON, ESQ.

THIS FIRST NUMBER OF SACRED SONGS IS INSCRIBED,

BY HIS SINCERE AND AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,

THOMAS MOORE.

Mayfield Cottage, Ashbourne, May, 1816.

THOU ART, OH GOD.

(Air. — Unknown.[1])

"The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

"Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter." — *Psalm* lxxiv. 16, 17.

Thou art, O God, the life and light
Of all this wondrous world we see;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from Thee.
Where'er we turn, thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine!

When Day, with farewell beam, delays
Among the op'ning clouds of Even,
And we can almost think we gaze
Through golden vistas into Heaven—
Those hues that make the Sun's decline
So soft, so radiant, Lord! are Thine.

When Night, with wings of starry gloom,
O'ershadows all the earth and skies,
Like some dark, beauteous bird, whose plume
Is sparkling with unnumber'd eyes—
That sacred gloom, those fires divine,
So grand, so countless, Lord! are Thine.

When youthful Spring around us breathes,
Thy Spirit warms her fragrant sigh;

[1] I have heard that this air is by the late Mrs. Sheridan. It is sung to the beautiful old words, "I do confess thou'rt smooth and fair."

And every flower the Summer wreathes
Is born beneath that kindling eye.
Where'er we turn, thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine!

THE BIRD, LET LOOSE.

(AIR.—BEETHOVEN.)

THE bird, let loose in eastern skies,[1]
When hast'ning fondly home,
Ne'er stoops to earth her wing, nor flies
Where idle warblers roam.
But high she shoots through air and light,
Above all low delay,
Where nothing earthly bounds her flight,
Nor shadow dims her way,

So grant me, God, from every care
And stain of passion free,
Aloft, through Virtue's purer air,
To hold my course to Thee!
No sin to cloud, no lure to stay
My Soul, as home she springs;—
Thy Sunshine on her joyful way,
Thy Freedom in her wings!

FALLEN IS THY THRONE.

(AIR.—MARTINI.)

FALL'N is thy Throne, oh Israel!
Silence is o'er thy plains;
Thy dwellings all lie desolate,
Thy children weep in chains.
Where are the dews that fed thee
On Etham's barren shore?
That fire from Heaven which led thee,
Now lights thy path no more.

LORD! thou didst love Jerusalem—
Once she was all thy own;
Her love thy fairest heritage,[2]
Her power thy glory's throne.[3]
Till evil came, and blighted
Thy long-lov'd olive tree;—[4]
And Salem's shrines were lighted
For other gods than Thee.

Then sunk the star of Solyma—
Then pass'd her glory's day,
Like heath that, in the wilderness,[5]
The wild wind whirls away.
Silent and waste her bowers,
Where once the mighty trod,
And sunk those guilty towers,
While Baal reign'd as God.

"Go"—said the LORD—"Ye Conquerors!
"Steep in her blood your swords,
"And raze to earth her battlements,[6]
"For they are not the LORD'S.
"Till Zion's mournful daughter
"O'er kindred bones shall tread,
"And Hinnom's vale of slaughter[7]
"Shall hide but half her dead!"

WHO IS THE MAID?

ST. JEROME'S LOVE.[8]

(AIR.—BEETHOVEN.)

WHO is the Maid my spirit seeks,
Through cold reproof and slander's blight?
Has *she* Love's roses on her cheeks?
Is *hers* an eye of this world's light?
No—wan and sunk with midnight prayer
Are the pale looks of her I love;
Or if, at times, a light be there,
Its beam is kindled from above.

I chose not her, my heart's elect,
From those who seek their Maker's shrine

[1] The carrier-pigeon, it is well known, flies at an elevated pitch, in order to surmount every obstacle between her and the place to which she is destined.

[2] "I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hands of her enemies."—*Jeremiah*, xii. 7.

[3] "Do not disgrace the throne of thy glory."—*Jer.* xiv. 21.

[4] "The Lord called thy name a green olive-tree; fair, and of goodly fruit," &c.—*Jer.* xi. 16.

[5] "For he shall be like the heath in the desert."—*Jer.* xvii. 6.

[6] "Take away her battlements; for they are not the Lord's."—*Jer.* v. 10.

[7] "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they shall bury in Tophet till there be no place."—*Jer.* vii. 32.

[8] These lines were suggested by a passage in one of St. Jerome's Letters, replying to some calumnious remarks that had been circulated respecting his intimacy with the matron Paula:—"Numquid me vestes sericæ, nitentes gemmæ, picta facies, aut auri rapuit ambitio? Nulla fuit alia Romæ matronarum, quæ meam possit edomare mentem, nisi lugens atque jejunans, fletu pene cæcata."—*Epist.* "*Si tibi putem.*"

In gems and garlands proudly deck'd,
As if themselves were things divine.
No—Heaven but faintly warms the breast
That beats beneath a broider'd veil;
And she who comes in glitt'ring vest
To mourn her frailty, still is frail.[1]

Not so the faded form I prize
And love, because its bloom is gone;
The glory in those sainted eyes
Is all the grace *her* brow puts on.
And ne'er was Beauty's dawn so bright,
So touching as that form's decay,
Which, like the altar's trembling light,
In holy lustre wastes away.

THIS WORLD IS ALL A FLEETING SHOW.

(AIR.—STEVENSON.)

THIS world is all a fleeting show,
For man's illusion given;
The smiles of Joy, the tears of Woe,
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow—
There's nothing true, but Heaven!

And false the light on Glory's plume,
As fading hues of Even;
And Love and Hope, and Beauty's bloom,
Are blossoms gather'd for the tomb—
There's nothing bright, but Heaven!

Poor wand'rers of a stormy day!
From wave to wave we're driven,
And Fancy's flash, and Reason's ray,
Serve but to light the troubled way—
There's nothing calm, but Heaven!

OH, THOU! WHO DRY'ST THE MOURNER'S TEAR.

(AIR.—HAYDN.)

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."—*Psalm* cxlvii. 3.

OH, Thou! who dry'st the mourner's tear,
How dark this world would be,
If, when deceiv'd and wounded here,
We could not fly to Thee!
The friends, who in our sunshine live,
When winter comes, are flown;
And he who has but tears to give,
Must weep those tears alone.
But thou wilt heal that broken heart,
Which, like the plants that throw
Their fragrance from the wounded part,
Breathes sweetness out of woe.

When joy no longer soothes or cheers,
And even the hope that threw
A moment's sparkle o'er our tears,
Is dimm'd and vanish'd too,
Oh, who would bear life's stormy doom,
Did not thy Wing of Love
Come, brightly wafting through the gloom
Our Peace-branch from above?
Then sorrow, touch'd by Thee, grows bright
With more than rapture's ray;
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day!

WEEP NOT FOR THOSE.

(AIR.—AVISON.)

WEEP not for those whom the veil of the tomb,
In life's happy morning, hath hid from our eyes,
Ere sin threw a blight o'er the spirit's young bloom,
Or earth had profan'd what was born for the skies.
Death chill'd the fair fountain, ere sorrow had stain'd it;
'Twas frozen in all the pure light of its course,
And but sleeps till the sunshine of Heaven has unchain'd it,
To water that Eden where first was its source.
Weep not for those whom the veil of the tomb,
In life's happy morning, hath hid from our eyes,
Ere sin threw a blight o'er the spirit's young bloom,
Or earth had profan'd what was born for the skies.

Mourn not for her, the young Bride of the Vale,[2]
Our gayest and loveliest, lost to us now,

[1] Ου γαρ χρυσοφορειν την δακρυουσαν δει.—*Chrysost. Homil.* 8. *in Epist. ad Tim.*

[2] This second verse, which I wrote long after the first, alludes to the fate of a very lovely and amiable girl, the daughter of the late Colonel Bainbrigge, who was married in Ashbourne church, October 31. 1815, and died of a fever in a few weeks after: the sound of her marriage-bells seemed scarcely out of our ears when we heard of her death. During her last delirium she sung several hymns, in a voice even clearer and sweeter than usual, and among them were some from the present collection, (particularly, "There's nothing bright but Heaven,") which this very interesting girl had often heard me sing during the summer.

Ere life's early lustre had time to grow pale,
And the garland of Love was yet fresh on her brow.
Oh, then was her moment, dear spirit, for flying
From this gloomy world, while its gloom was unknown—
And the wild hymns she warbled so sweetly, in dying,
Were echoed in Heaven by lips like her own.
Weep not for her—in her spring-time she flew
To that land where the wings of the soul are unfurl'd;
And now, like a star beyond evening's cold dew,
Looks radiantly down on the tears of this world.

THE TURF SHALL BE MY FRAGRANT SHRINE.

(AIR.—STEVENSON.)

THE turf shall be my fragrant shrine;
My temple, LORD! that Arch of thine;
My censer's breath the mountain airs,
And silent thoughts my only prayers.[1]

My choir shall be the moonlight waves,
When murm'ring homeward to their caves,
Or when the stillness of the sea,
Even more than music, breathes of Thee!

I'll seek, by day, some glade unknown,
All light and silence, like thy Throne;
And the pale stars shall be, at night,
The only eyes that watch my rite.

Thy Heaven, on which 'tis bliss to look,
Shall be my pure and shining book,
Where I shall read, in words of flame,
The glories of thy wondrous name.

I'll read thy anger in the rack
That clouds awhile the day-beam's track;
Thy mercy in the azure hue
Of sunny brightness, breaking through.

There's nothing bright, above, below,
From flowers that bloom to stars that glow,
But in its light my soul can see
Some feature of thy Deity

There's nothing dark, below, above,
But in its gloom I trace thy Love,
And meekly wait that moment, when
Thy touch shall turn all bright again!

SOUND THE LOUD TIMBREL.

MIRIAM'S SONG.

(AIR.—AVISON.[2])

"And Miriam the Prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances."—*Exod.* xv. 20.

SOUND the loud Timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea!
JEHOVAH has triumph'd—his people are free.
Sing—for the pride of the Tyrant is broken,
His chariots, his horsemen, all splendid and brave—
How vain was their boast, for the LORD hath but spoken,
And chariots and horsemen are sunk in the wave.
Sound the loud Timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea;
JEHOVAH has triumph'd—his people are free.

Praise to the Conqueror, praise to the LORD!
His word was our arrow, his breath was our sword.—
Who shall return to tell Egypt the story
Of those she sent forth in the hour of her pride?
For the LORD hath look'd out from his pillar of glory,[3]
And all her brave thousands are dash'd in the tide.
Sound the loud Timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea;
JEHOVAH has triumph'd—his people are free!

GO, LET ME WEEP.

(AIR.—STEVENSON.)

Go, let me weep—there's bliss in tears,
When he who sheds them inly feels
Some ling'ring stain of early years
Effac'd by every drop that steals.

[1] Pii orant tacitè.

[2] I have so much altered the character of this air, which is from the beginning of one of Avison's old-fashioned concertos, that, without this acknowledgment, it could hardly, I think, be recognized.

[3] "And it came to pass, that, in the morning watch, the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians, through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians."—*Exod.* xiv. 24.

The fruitless showers of worldly woe
Fall dark to earth and never rise;
While tears that from repentance flow,
In bright exhalement reach the skies.
Go, let me weep.

Leave me to sigh o'er hours that flew
More idly than the summer's wind,
And, while they pass'd, a fragrance threw,
But left no trace of sweets behind.—
The warmest sigh that pleasure heaves
Is cold, is faint to those that swell
The heart, where pure repentance grieves
O'er hours of pleasure, lov'd too well.
Leave me to sigh.

COME NOT, OH LORD.

(AIR.— HAYDN.)

COME not, oh LORD, in the dread robe of splendour
Thou wor'st on the Mount, in the day of thine ire;
Come veil'd in those shadows, deep, awful, but tender,
Which Mercy flings over thy features of fire!

LORD, thou rememb'rest the night, when thy Nation [1]
Stood fronting her Foe by the red-rolling stream;
O'er Egypt thy pillar shed dark desolation,
While Israel bask'd all the night in its beam.

So, when the dread clouds of anger enfold Thee,
From us, in thy mercy, the dark side remove;
While shrouded in terrors the guilty behold Thee,
Oh, turn upon us the mild light of thy Love!

WERE NOT THE SINFUL MARY'S TEARS.

(AIR.— STEVENSON.)

WERE not the sinful Mary's tears
An offering worthy Heaven,
When, o'er the faults of former years,
She wept —and was forgiven?

When, bringing every balmy sweet
Her day of luxury stor'd,
She o'er her Saviour's hallow'd feet
The precious odours pour'd;—

And wip'd them with that golden hair,
Where once the diamond shone;
Though now those gems of grief were there
Which shine for GOD alone!

Were not those sweets, so humbly shed—
That hair—those weeping eyes—
And the sunk heart, that inly bled—
Heaven's noblest sacrifice?

Thou, that hast slept in error's sleep,
Oh, wouldst thou wake in Heaven,
Like Mary kneel, like Mary weep,
"Love much [2]" and be forgiven!

AS DOWN IN THE SUNLESS RETREATS.

(AIR.— HAYDN.)

As down in the sunless retreats of the Ocean,
Sweet flowers are springing no mortal can see,
So, deep in my soul the still prayer of devotion,
Unheard by the world, rises silent to Thee,
My GOD! silent, to Thee—
Pure, warm, silent, to Thee.

As still to the star of its worship, though clouded,
The needle points faithfully o'er the dim sea,
So, dark as I roam, in this wintry world shrouded,
The hope of my spirit turns trembling to Thee,
My GOD! trembling, to Thee—
True, fond, trembling, to Thee.

BUT WHO SHALL SEE.

(AIR.— STEVENSON.)

BUT who shall see the glorious day
When, thron'd on Zion's brow,
The LORD shall rend that veil away
Which hides the nations now? [3]
When earth no more beneath the fear
Of his rebuke shall lie; [4]

[1] "And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these."— *Exod.* xiv. 20.

[2] "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much."— *Luke*, vii. 47.

[3] "And he will destroy, in this mountain, the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations."— *Isaiah*, xxv. 7.

[4] "The rebuke *of his people shall he take away from off* all the earth."— *Isaiah*, xxv. 8.

When pain shall cease, and every tear
Be wip'd from ev'ry eye.[1]

Then, Judah, thou no more shalt mourn
Beneath the heathen's chain;
Thy days of splendour shall return,
And all be new again.[2]
The Fount of Life shall then be quaff'd
In peace, by all who come;[3]
And every wind that blows shall waft
Some long-lost exile home.

ALMIGHTY GOD!

CHORUS OF PRIESTS.

(AIR. — MOZART.)

ALMIGHTY GOD! when round thy shrine
The Palm-tree's heavenly branch we twine,[4]
(Emblem of Life's eternal ray,
And Love that "fadeth not away,")
We bless the flowers, expanded all,[5]
We bless the leaves that never fall,
And trembling say, — "In Eden thus
"The Tree of Life may flower for us!"

When round thy Cherubs — smiling calm,
Without their flames[6] — we wreathe the Palm,
Oh GOD! we feel the emblem true —
Thy Mercy is eternal too.
Those Cherubs, with their smiling eyes,
That crown of Palm which never dies,
Are but the types of Thee above —
Eternal Life, and Peace, and Love!

OH FAIR! OH PUREST!

SAINT AUGUSTINE TO HIS SISTER.[7]

(AIR. — MOORE.)

OH fair! oh purest! be thou the dove
That flies alone to some sunny grove,
And lives unseen, and bathes her wing,
All vestal white, in the limpid spring.
There, if the hov'ring hawk be near,
That limpid spring in its mirror clear,
Reflects him, ere he reach his prey,
And warns the timorous bird away.
Be thou this dove;
Fairest, purest, be thou this dove.

The sacred pages of GOD's own book
Shall be the spring, the eternal brook,
In whose holy mirror, night and day,
Thou'lt study Heaven's reflected ray; —
And should the foes of virtue dare,
With gloomy wing, to seek thee there,
Thou wilt see how dark their shadows lie
Between Heaven and thee, and trembling fly!
Be thou that dove;
Fairest, purest, be thou that dove.

ANGEL OF CHARITY.

(AIR. — HANDEL.)

ANGEL of Charity, who, from above,
Comest to dwell a pilgrim here,
Thy voice is music, thy smile is love,
And Pity's soul is in thy tear.
When on the shrine of GOD were laid
First-fruits of all most good and fair,
That ever bloom'd in Eden's shade,
Thine was the holiest offering there.

[1] "And GOD shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; . . . neither shall there be any more pain." — *Rev.* xxi. 4.

[2] "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." — *Rev.* xxi. 5.

[3] "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." — *Rev.* xxii. 17.

[4] "The Scriptures having declared that the Temple of Jerusalem was a type of the Messiah, it is natural to conclude that the *Palms*, which made so conspicuous a figure in that structure, represented that *Life* and *Immortality* which were brought to light by the Gospel." — *Observations on the Palm, as a Sacred Emblem*, by W. Tighe.

[5] "And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims, and palm-trees, and *open flowers*." — 1 *Kings*, vi. 29.

[6] "When the passover of the tabernacles was revealed to the great lawgiver in the mount, then the cherubic images which appeared in that structure were no longer surrounded by flames; for the tabernacle was a type of the dispensation of mercy, by which JEHOVAH confirmed his gracious covenant to redeem mankind." — *Observations on the Palm.*

[7] In St. Augustine's Treatise upon the advantages of a solitary life, addressed to his sister, there is the following fanciful passage, from which, the reader will perceive, the thought of this song was taken: — "Te, soror, nunquam nolo esse securam, sed timere semperque tuam fragilitatem habere suspectam, ad instar pavidæ columbæ frequentare rivos aquarum et quasi in speculo accipitris cernere supervolantis effigiem et cavere. Rivi aquarum sententiæ sunt scripturarum, quæ de limpidissimo sapientiæ fonte profluentes," &c. &c. — *De Vit. Eremit. ad Sororem.*

Hope and her sister, Faith, were given
But as our guides to yonder sky;
Soon as they reach the verge of heaven,
There, lost in perfect bliss, they die.[1]
But, long as Love, Almighty Love,
Shall on his throne of thrones abide,
Thou, Charity, shall dwell above,
Smiling for ever by His side!

BEHOLD THE SUN.

(Air.—Lord Mornington.)

Behold the Sun, how bright
From yonder East he springs,
As if the soul of life and light
Were breathing from his wings.

So bright the Gospel broke
Upon the souls of men;
So fresh the dreaming world awoke
In Truth's full radiance then.

Before yon Sun arose,
Stars cluster'd through the sky—
But oh, how dim! how pale were those,
To His one burning eye!

So Truth lent many a ray,
To bless the Pagan's night—
But, Lord, how weak, how cold were they
To Thy One glorious Light!

LORD, WHO SHALL BEAR THAT DAY.

(Air.—Dr. Boyce.)

Lord, who shall bear that day, so dread, so splendid,
When we shall see thy Angel, hov'ring o'er
This sinful world, with hand to heav'n extended,
And hear him swear by Thee that Time's no more?[2]
When Earth shall feel thy fast consuming ray—
Who, Mighty God, oh who shall bear that day?

When through the world thy awful call hath sounded—
"Wake, all ye Dead, to judgment wake, ye Dead!"[3]
And from the clouds, by seraph eyes surrounded,
The Saviour shall put forth his radiant head;[4]
While Earth and Heav'n before Him pass away—[5]
Who, Mighty God, oh who shall bear that day?

When, with a glance, th' Eternal Judge shall sever
Earth's evil spirits from the pure and bright,
And say to *those*, "Depart from me for ever!"
To *these*, "Come, dwell with me in endless light!"[6]
When each and all in silence take their way—
Who, Mighty God, oh who shall bear that day?

OH, TEACH ME TO LOVE THEE.

(Air.—Haydn.)

Oh, teach me to love Thee, to feel what thou art,
Till, fill'd with the one sacred image, my heart
Shall all other passions disown;
Like some pure temple, that shines apart,
Reserv'd for Thy worship alone.

In joy and in sorrow, through praise and through blame,
Thus still let me, living and dying the same,
In *Thy* service bloom and decay—
Like some lone altar, whose votive flame
In holiness wasteth away.

Though born in this desert, and doom'd by my birth
To pain and affliction, to darkness and dearth,
On Thee let my spirit rely—
Like some rude dial, that, fix'd on earth,
Still looks for its light from the sky.

[1] "Then Faith shall fail, and holy Hope shall die,
One lost in certainty, and one in joy."—*Prior*.

[2] "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth, lifted up his hand to heaven, and sware by Him that liveth for ever and ever, ... that there should be time no longer."—*Rev.* x. 5, 6.

[3] "Awake, ye Dead, and come to judgment."

[4] "They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven—and all the angels with him."—*Matt.* xxiv. 30. and xxv. 31.

[5] "From whose face the earth and the heaven fled away."—*Rev.* xx. 11.

[6] "And before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another. . . . .

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, &c.

"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, &c.

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal."—*Matt.* xxv. 32. *et seq.*

WEEP, CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

(Air. — Stevenson.)

Weep, weep for him, the Man of God — [1]
In yonder vale he sunk to rest;
But none of earth can point the sod [2]
That flowers above his sacred breast.
Weep, children of Israel, weep!

His doctrine fell like Heaven's rain, [3]
His words refresh'd like Heaven's dew —
Oh, ne'er shall Israel see again
A Chief, to God and her so true.
Weep, children of Israel, weep!

Remember ye his parting gaze,
His farewell song by Jordan's tide,
When, full of glory and of days,
He saw the promis'd land — and died. [4]
— Weep, children of Israel, weep!

Yet died he not as men who sink,
Before our eyes, to soulless clay;
But, chang'd to spirit, like a wink
Of summer lightning, pass'd away. [5]
Weep, children of Israel, weep!

LIKE MORNING, WHEN HER EARLY BREEZE.

(Air. — Beethoven.)

Like morning, when her early breeze
Breaks up the surface of the seas,
That, in those furrows, dark with night,
Her hand may sow the seeds of light —

Thy Grace can send its breathings o'er
The Spirit, dark and lost before,
And, fresh'ning all its depths, prepare
For Truth divine to enter there.

Till David touch'd his sacred lyre,
In silence lay th' unbreathing wire;
But when he swept its chords along,
Ev'n Angels stoop'd to hear that song.

So sleeps the soul, till Thou, oh Lord,
Shalt deign to touch its lifeless chord —
Till, wak'd by Thee, its breath shall rise
In music, worthy of the skies!

COME, YE DISCONSOLATE.

(Air — German.)

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er you languish,
Come, at God's altar fervently kneel;
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish —
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, Light of the straying,
Hope, when all others die, fadeless and pure,
Here speaks the Comforter, in God's name saying —
"Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot cure."

Go, ask the infidel, what boon he brings us,
What charm for aching hearts *he* can reveal,
Sweet as that heavenly promise Hope sings us —
"Earth has no sorrow that God cannot heal."

AWAKE, ARISE, THY LIGHT IS COME.

(Air. — Stevenson.)

Awake, arise, thy light is come; [6]
The nations, that before outshone thee,
Now at thy feet lie dark and dumb —
The glory of the Lord is on thee!

Arise — the Gentiles to thy ray,
From ev'ry nook of earth shall cluster;
And kings and princes haste to pay
Their homage to thy rising lustre. [7]

[1] "And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab." — *Deut.* xxxiv. 8.

[2] "And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab; . . . . but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day." — *Ibid.* ver. 6.

[3] "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew." — *Moses' Song, Deut.* xxxii. 2.

[4] "I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither." — *Deut.* xxxiv. 4.

[5] "As he was going to embrace Eleazer and Joshua, and was still discoursing with them, a cloud stood over him on the sudden, and he disappeared in a certain valley, although he wrote in the Holy Books that he died, which was done out of fear, lest they should venture to say that, because of his extraordinary virtue, he went to God." — *Josephus*, book iv. chap. viii.

[6] "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." — *Isaiah*, lx.

[7] "And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." — *Ib.*

Lift up thine eyes around, and see,
O'er foreign fields, o'er farthest waters,
Thy exil'd sons return to thee,
To thee return thy home-sick daughters.[1]

And camels rich, from Midian's tents,
Shall lay their treasures down before thee;
And Saba bring her gold and scents,
To fill thy air and sparkle o'er thee.[2]

See, who are these that, like a cloud,[3]
Are gathering from all earth's dominions,
Like doves, long absent, when allow'd
Homeward to shoot their trembling pinions.

Surely the isles shall wait for me,[4]
The ships of Tarshish round will hover,
To bring thy sons across the sea,
And waft their gold and silver over.

And Lebanon thy pomp shall grace —[5]
The fir, the pine, the palm victorious
Shall beautify our Holy Place,
And make the ground I tread on glorious.

No more shall Discord haunt thy ways,[6]
Nor ruin waste thy cheerless nation;
But thou shalt call thy portals, Praise,
And thou shalt name thy walls, Salvation.

The sun no more shall make thee bright,[7]
Nor moon shall lend her lustre to thee;
But GOD, Himself, shall be thy Light,
And flash eternal glory through thee.

Thy sun shall never more go down;
A ray, from Heav'n itself descended,
Shall light thy everlasting crown —
Thy days of mourning all are ended.[8]

My own, elect, and righteous Land!
The Branch, for ever green and vernal,
Which I have planted with this hand —
Live thou shalt in Life Eternal.[9]

[1] "Lift up thine eyes round about, and see; all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from afar, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side." — *Isaiah*, lx.

[2] "The multitude of camels shall cover thee; the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense." — *Ib.*

[3] "Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?" — *Ib.*

[4] "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them." — *Ib.*

[5] "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee; the fir-tree, the pine-tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious." — *Ib.*

THERE IS A BLEAK DESERT.

(AIR. — CRESCENTINI.)

THERE is a bleak Desert, where daylight grows weary
Of wasting its smile on a region so dreary —
What may that desert be?
'Tis Life, cheerless Life, where the few joys that come
Are lost like that daylight, for 'tis not their home.

There is a lone Pilgrim, before whose faint eyes
The water he pants for but sparkles and flies —
Who may that Pilgrim be?
'Tis Man, hapless Man, through this life tempted on
By fair shining hopes, that in shining are gone.

There is a bright Fountain, through that Desert stealing
To pure lips alone its refreshment revealing —
What may that Fountain be?
'Tis Truth, holy Truth, that, like springs under ground,
By the gifted of Heaven alone can be found.[10]

There is a fair Spirit, whose wand hath the spell
To point where those waters in secrecy dwell —
Who may that Spirit be?
'Tis Faith, humble Faith, who hath learn'd that, where'er
Her wand bends to worship, the Truth must be there!

SINCE FIRST THY WORD.

(AIR. — NICHOLAS FREEMAN.)

SINCE first Thy Word awak'd my heart,
Like new life dawning o'er me,

[6] "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls, Salvation, and thy gates, Praise." — *Isaiah*, lx.

[7] "Thy sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy GOD thy glory." — *Ib.*

[8] "Thy sun shall no more go down; . . . . for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." — *Ib.*

[9] "Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands." — *Ib.*

[10] In singing, the following line had better be adopted, —

"Can but by the gifted of Heaven be found."

Where'er I turn mine eyes, Thou art,
All light and love before me.
Nought else I feel, or hear or see—
All bonds of earth I sever—
Thee, O God, and only Thee
I live for, now and ever.

Like him whose fetters dropp'd away
When light shone o'er his prison,[1]
My spirit, touch'd by Mercy's ray,
Hath from her chains arisen.
And shall a soul Thou bidst be free,
Return to bondage?—never!
Thee, O God, and only Thee
I live for, now and ever.

HARK! 'TIS THE BREEZE.

(Air.—Rousseau.)

Hark! 'tis the breeze of twilight calling
Earth's weary children to repose;
While, round the couch of Nature falling,
Gently the night's soft curtains close.
Soon o'er a world, in sleep reclining,
Numberless stars, through yonder dark,
Shall look, like eyes of Cherubs shining
From out the veils that hid the Ark.

Guard us, oh Thou, who never sleepest,
Thou who, in silence thron'd above,
Throughout all time, unwearied, keepest
Thy watch of Glory, Pow'r, and Love.
Grant that, beneath thine eye, securely,
Our souls, awhile from life withdrawn,
May, in their darkness, stilly, purely,
Like "sealed fountains," rest till dawn.

WHERE IS YOUR DWELLING, YE SAINTED?

(Air.—Hasse.)

Where is your dwelling, ye Sainted?
Through what Elysium more bright
Than fancy or hope ever painted,
Walk ye in glory and light?

Who the same kingdom inherits?
Breathes there a soul that may dare
Look to that world of Spirits,
Or hope to dwell with you there?

Sages! who, ev'n in exploring
Nature through all her bright ways,
Went, like the Seraphs, adoring,
And veil'd your eyes in the blaze—
Martyrs! who left for our reaping
Truths you had sown in your blood—
Sinners! whom long years of weeping
Chasten'd from evil to good—

Maidens! who, like the young Crescent,
Turning away your pale brows
From earth, and the light of the Present,
Look'd to your Heavenly Spouse—
Say, through what region enchanted,
Walk ye, in Heaven's sweet air?
Say, to what spirits 'tis granted,
Bright souls, to dwell with you there?

HOW LIGHTLY MOUNTS THE MUSE'S WING.

(Air.—Anonymous.)

How lightly mounts the Muse's wing,
Whose theme is in the skies—
Like morning larks, that sweeter sing
The nearer Heav'n they rise.

Though Love his magic lyre may tune,
Yet ah, the flow'rs he round it wreathes
Were pluck'd beneath pale Passion's moon,
Whose madness in their odour breathes.

How purer far the sacred lute,
Round which Devotion ties
Sweet flow'rs that turn to heav'nly fruit,
And palm that never dies.

Though War's high-sounding harp may be
Most welcome to the hero's ears,
Alas, his chords of victory
Are wet, all o'er, with human tears.

How far more sweet their numbers run,
Who hymn, like Saints above,
No victor, but th' Eternal One,
No trophies but of Love!

[1] "And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison, ... and his chains fell off from his hands."—*Acts*, xii. 7.

GO FORTH TO THE MOUNT.

(AIR. — STEVENSON.)

Go forth to the Mount — bring the olive-branch home, [1]
And rejoice, for the day of our Freedom is come!
From that time [2], when the moon upon Ajalon's vale,
Looking motionless down [3], saw the kings of the earth,
In the presence of GOD's mighty Champion, grow pale —
Oh, never had Judah an hour of such mirth!
Go forth to the Mount — bring the olive-branch home,
And rejoice, for the day of our Freedom is come!

Bring myrtle and palm — bring the boughs of each tree
That's worthy to wave o'er the tents of the Free. [4]
From that day, when the footsteps of Israel shone,
With a light not their own, through the Jordan's deep tide,
Whose waters shrunk back as the Ark glided on — [5]
Oh, never had Judah an hour of such pride!
Go forth to the Mount — bring the olive-branch home,
And rejoice, for the day of our Freedom is come!

IS IT NOT SWEET TO THINK, HEREAFTER.

(AIR. — HAYDN.)

Is it not sweet to think, hereafter,
When the Spirit leaves this sphere,
Love, with deathless wing, shall waft her
To those she long hath mourn'd for here?

Hearts, from which 'twas death to sever
Eyes, this world can ne'er restore,
There, as warm, as bright as ever,
Shall meet us and be lost no more.

When wearily we wander, asking
Of earth and heav'n, where are they,
Beneath whose smile we once lay basking,
Blest, and thinking bliss would stay?

Hope still lifts her radiant finger
Pointing to th' eternal Home,
Upon whose portal yet they linger,
Looking back for us to come.

Alas, alas doth Hope deceive us?
Shall friendship — love — shall all those ties
That bind a moment, and then leave us,
Be found again where nothing dies?

Oh, if no other boon were given,
To keep our hearts from wrong and stain,
Who would not try to win a Heaven
Where all we love shall live again?

WAR AGAINST BABYLON.

(AIR. — NOVELLO.)

"WAR against Babylon!" shout we around, [6]
Be our banners through earth unfurl'd;
Rise up, ye nations, ye kings, at the sound — [7]
"War against Babylon!" shout through the world!
Oh thou, that dwellest on many waters, [8]
Thy day of pride is ended now;
And the dark curse of Israel's daughters
Breaks, like a thunder-cloud, over thy brow!
War, war, war against Babylon!

Make bright the arrows, and gather the shields, [9]
Set the standard of God on high;
Swarm we, like locusts, o'er all her fields,
"Zion" our watchword, and "vengeance" our cry!
Woe! woe! — the time of thy visitation [10]
Is come, proud Land, thy doom is cast —
And the black surge of desolation
Sweeps o'er thy guilty head, at last!
War, war, war against Babylon!

[1] "And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive-branches," &c. &c. — *Neh.* viii. 15.

[2] "For since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so: and there was very great gladness." — *Neh.* viii. 17.

[3] "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon." — *Josh.* x. 12.

[4] "Fetch olive-branches, and pine-branches, and myrtle-branches, and palm-branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths." — *Neh.* viii. 15.

[5] "And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground." — *Josh.* iii. 17.

[6] "Shout against her round about." — *Jer.* l. 15.

[7] "Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms," &c. &c. — *Jer.* li. 27.

[8] "Oh thou that dwellest upon many waters, ... thine end is come." — *Jer.* li. 13.

[9] "Make bright the arrows; gather the shields . . . . , set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon." — *Jer.* li. 11, 12.

[10] "Woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation!" — *Jer.* l. 27.

THE SUMMER FÊTE.

TO

THE HONOURABLE MRS. NORTON.

For the groundwork of the following Poem I am indebted to a memorable Fête, given some years since, at Boyle Farm, the seat of the late Lord Henry Fitzgerald. In commemoration of that evening—of which the lady to whom these pages are inscribed was, I well recollect, one of the most distinguished ornaments—I was induced at the time to write some verses, which were afterwards, however, thrown aside unfinished, on my discovering that the same task had been undertaken by a noble poet[1], whose playful and happy *jeu-d'esprit* on the subject has since been published. It was but lately, that, on finding the fragments of my own sketch among my papers, I thought of founding on them such a description of an imaginary Fête as might furnish me with situations for the introduction of music.

Such is the origin and object of the following Poem, and to Mrs. Norton it is, with every feeling of admiration and regard, inscribed by her father's warmly attached friend,

THOMAS MOORE.

Sloperton Cottage,
November, 1831.

THE SUMMER FÊTE.

"Where are ye now, ye summer days,
"That once inspir'd the poet's lays?
"Blest time! ere England's nymphs and swains,
"For lack of sunbeams, took to coals—
"Summers of light, undimm'd by rains,
"Whose only mocking trace remains
"In watering-pots and parasols."

Thus spoke a young Patrician maid,
As, on the morning of that Fête
Which bards unborn shall celebrate,
She backward drew her curtain's shade,
And, closing one half-dazzled eye,
Peep'd with the other at the sky—
Th' important sky, whose light or gloom
Was to decide, this day, the doom
Of some few hundred beauties, wits,
Blues, Dandies, Swains, and Exquisites.

Faint were her hopes; for June had now
Set in with all his usual rigour!
Young Zephyr yet scarce knowing how
To nurse a bud, or fan a bough,
But Eurus in perpetual vigour;
And, such the biting summer air,
That she, the nymph now nestling there—
Snug as her own bright gems recline,
At night, within their cotton shrine—
Had, more than once, been caught of late
Kneeling before her blazing grate,
Like a young worshipper of fire,
With hands uplifted to the flame,
Whose glow as if to woo them nigher,
Through the white fingers flushing came.

But oh! the light, th' unhop'd-for light,
That now illum'd this morning's heaven!
Up sprung Iänthe at the sight,
Though—hark!—the clocks but strike eleven,
And rarely did the nymph surprise
Mankind so early with her eyes.

Who now will say that England's sun
(Like England's self, these spendthrift days)
His stock of wealth hath near outrun,
And must retrench his golden rays—
Pay for the pride of sunbeams past,
And to mere moonshine come at last?

"Calumnious thought!" Iänthe cries,
While coming mirth lit up each glance,
And, prescient of the ball, her eyes
Already had begun to dance;
For brighter sun than that which now
Sparkled o'er London's spires and towers,
Had never bent from heaven his brow
To kiss Firenze's City of Flowers.

[1] Lord Francis Egerton.

What must it be—if thus so fair
Mid the smok'd groves of Grosvenor Square—
What must it be where Thames is seen
Gliding between his banks of green,
While rival villas, on each side,
Peep from their bowers to woo his tide,
And, like a Turk between two rows
Of Harem beauties, on he goes—
A lover, lov'd for ev'n the grace
With which he slides from their embrace.

In one of those enchanted domes,
One, the most flow'ry, cool, and bright
Of all by which that river roams,
The Fête is to be held to-night—
That Fête already link'd to fame,
Whose cards, in many a fair one's sight
(When look'd for long, at last they came,)
Seem'd circled with a fairy light;—
That Fête to which the cull, the flower
Of England's beauty, rank and power,
From the young spinster just come *out*,
To the old Premier, too long *in*—
From legs of fair descended gout,
To the last new-mustachio'd chin—
All were convoked by Fashion's spells
To the small circle where she dwells,
Collecting nightly, to allure us,
Live atoms, which, together hurl'd,
She, like another Epicurus,
Sets dancing thus, and calls "the World."

Behold how busy in those bowers
(Like May-flies, in and out of flowers,)
The countless menials swarming run,
To furnish forth, ere set of sun,
The banquet-table richly laid
Beneath yon awning's lengthen'd shade,
Where fruits shall tempt, and wines entice,
And Luxury's self, at Gunter's call,
Breathe from her summer-throne of ice
A spirit of coolness over all.

And now th' important hour drew nigh,
When, 'neath the flush of evening's sky,
The west end "world" for mirth let loose,
And mov'd, as he of Syracuse[1]
Ne'er dreamt of moving worlds, by force
Of four-horse power, had all combin'd
Through Grosvenor Gate to speed their course,
Leaving that portion of mankind,
Whom they call "Nobody," behind;—

No star for London's feasts to-day,
No moon of beauty, new this May,
To lend the night her crescent ray;—
Nothing, in short, for ear or eye,
But veteran belles, and wits gone by,
The relics of a past beau-monde,
A world, like Cuvier's, long dethron'd!
Ev'n Parliament this evening nods
Beneath th' harangues of minor gods,
On half its usual opiate's share;
The great dispensers of repose,
The first-rate furnishers of prose
Being all call'd to—prose elsewhere.

Soon as through Grosvenor's lordly square—[2]
That last impregnable redoubt,
Where, guarded with Patrician care,
Primeval Error still holds out—
Where never gleam of gas must dare
'Gainst ancient Darkness to revolt,
Nor smooth Macadam hope to spare
The dowagers one single jolt;—
Where, far too stately and sublime
To profit by the lights of time,
Let Intellect march how it will,
They stick to oil and watchmen still:—
Soon as through that illustrious square
The first epistolary bell,
Sounding by fits upon the air,
Of parting pennies rung the knell;
Warn'd by that telltale of the hours,
And by the daylight's westering beam,
The young Ianthe, who, with flowers
Half-crown'd, had sat in idle dream
Before her glass, scarce knowing where
Her fingers rov'd through that bright hair,
While, all capriciously, she now
Dislodg'd some curl from her white brow,
And now again replac'd it there;—
As though her task was meant to be
One endless change of ministry—
A routing-up of Loves and Graces,
But to plant others in their places.

Meanwhile—what strain is that which floats
Through the small boudoir near—like notes
Of some young bird, its task repeating
For the next lianet music-meeting?
A voice it was, whose gentle sounds
Still kept a modest octave's bounds,
Nor yet had ventur'd to exalt
Its rash ambition to *B alt*,

[1] Archimedes.

[2] I am not certain whether the Dowagers of this Square have yet yielded to the innovations of Gas and Police, but, at the time when the above lines were written, they still obstinately persevered in their old *régime*; and would not suffer themselves to be either well guarded or well lighted.

That point towards which when ladies rise,
The wise man takes his hat and—flies.
Tones of a harp, too, gently play'd,
Came with this youthful voice communing,
Tones true, for once, without the aid
Of that inflictive process, tuning—
A process which must oft have given
Poor Milton's ears a deadly wound;
So pleas'd, among the joys of Heav'n,
He specifies "harps *ever* tun'd."[1]
She who now sung this gentle strain
Was our young nymph's still younger sister—
Scarce ready yet for Fashion's train
In their light legions to enlist her,
But counted on, as sure to bring
Her force into the field next spring.

The song she thus, like Jubal's shell,
Gave forth "so sweetly and so well,"
Was one in Morning Post much fam'd,
From a *divine* collection, nam'd,
"Songs of the toilet"—every Lay
Taking for subject of its Muse,
Some branch of feminine array,
Some item, with full scope, to choose,
From diamonds down to dancing shoes;
From the last hat that Herbault's hands
Bequeath'd to an admiring world,
Down to the latest flounce that stands
Like Jacob's Ladder—or expands
Far forth, tempestuously unfurl'd.

Speaking of one of these new Lays,
The Morning Post thus sweetly says:—
"Not all that breathes from Bishop's lyre,
"That Barnett dreams, or Cooke conceives,
"Can match for sweetness, strength, or fire,
"This fine Cantata upon Sleeves.
"The very notes themselves reveal
"The cut of each new sleeve so well;
"A *flat* betrays the *Imbécilles*,[2]
"Light fugues the flying lappets tell;
"While rich cathedral chords awake
"Our homage for the *Manches d'Évêque*."

'Twas the first op'ning song—the Lay
Of all least deep in toilet-lore,
That the young nymph, to while away
The tiring-hour, thus warbled o'er:—

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[1] ——— "their golden harps they took—
Harps ever tun'd." *Paradise Lost*, book iii.

SONG.

Array thee, love, array thee, love,
In all thy best array thee;
The sun's below—the moon's above—
And Night and Bliss obey thee.
Put on thee all that's bright and rare,
The zone, the wreath, the gem,
Not so much gracing charms so fair,
As borrowing grace from them.
Array thee, love, array thee, love,
In all that's bright array thee;
The sun's below—the moon's above—
And Night and Bliss obey thee.

Put on the plumes thy lover gave,
The plumes, that, proudly dancing,
Proclaim to all, where'er they wave,
Victorious eyes advancing.
Bring forth the robe, whose hue of heaven
From thee derives such light,
That Iris would give all her seven
To boast but *one* so bright.
Array thee, love, array thee, love,
&c. &c. &c.

Now hie thee, love, now hie thee, love,
Through Pleasure's circles hie thee,
And hearts, where'er thy footsteps move,
Will beat, when they come nigh thee.
Thy every word shall be a spell,
Thy every look a ray,
And tracks of wond'ring eyes shall tell
The glory of thy way!
Now hie thee, love, now hie thee, love,
Through Pleasure's circles hie thee,
And hearts, where'er thy footsteps move,
Shall beat when they come nigh thee.

Now in his Palace of the West,
Sinking to slumber, the bright Day,
Like a tir'd monarch fann'd to rest,
Mid the cool airs of Evening lay;
While round his couch's golden rim
The gaudy clouds, like courtiers, crept—
Struggling each other's light to dim,
And catch his last smile e'er he slept.
How gay, as o'er the gliding Thames
The golden eve its lustre pour'd,
Shone out the high-born knights and dames
Now group'd around that festal board;

[2] The name given to those large sleeves that hang loosely.

A living mass of plumes and flowers,
As though they'd robb'd both birds and bowers—
A peopled rainbow, swarming through
With habitants of every hue;
While, as the sparkling juice of France
High in the crystal brimmers flow'd,
Each sunset ray that mix'd by chance
With the wine's sparkles, show'd
How sunbeams may be taught to dance.

If not in written form exprest,
'Twas known, at least, to every guest,
That, though not bidden to parade
Their scenic powers in masquerade,
(A pastime little found to thrive
In the bleak fog of England's skies,
Where wit's the thing we best contrive,
As masqueraders, to *disguise*,)
It yet was hop'd—and well that hope
Was answer'd by the young and gay—
That, in the toilet's task to-day,
Fancy should take her wildest scope;—
That the rapt milliner should be
Let loose through fields of poesy,
The tailor, in inventive trance,
Up to the heights of Epic clamber,
And all the regions of Romance
Be ransack'd by the *femme de chambre*.

Accordingly, with gay Sultanas,
Rebeccas, Sapphos, Roxalanas—
Circassian slaves whom Love would pay
Half his maternal realms to ransom;—
Young nuns, whose chief religion lay
In ᘐ'ing most profanely handsome;—
Muses in muslin—pastoral maids
With hats from the *Arcade-ian* shades,
And fortune-tellers, rich, 'twas plain,
As fortune-*hunters* form'd their train.

With these, and more such female groups,
Were mix'd no less fantastic troops
Of male exhibiters—all willing
To look, ev'n more than usual, killing;—
Beau tyrants, smock-fac'd braggadocios,
And brigands, charmingly ferocious;—
M. P.'s turn'd Turks, good Moslems then,
Who, last night, voted for the Greeks;
And Friars, staunch No-Popery men,
In close confab with Whig Caciques.

But where is she—the nymph, whom late
We left before her glass delaying,
Like Eve, when by the lake she sate,
In the clear wave her charms surveying,
And saw in that first glassy mirror
The first fair face that lur'd to error.

"Where is she," ask'st thou?—watch all looks
As cent'ring to one point they bear,
Like sun-flowers by the sides of brooks,
Turn'd to the sun—and she is there.
Ev'n in disguise, oh never doubt
By her own light you'd track her out:
As when the moon, close shawl'd in fog,
Steals as she thinks, through heaven *incog*,
Though hid herself, some sidelong ray,
At every step, detects her way.

But not in dark disguise to-night
Hath our young heroine veil'd her light;—
For see, she walks the earth, Love's own,
His wedded bride, by holiest vow
Pledg'd in Olympus, and made known
To mortals by the type which now
Hangs glitt'ring on her snowy brow,
That butterfly, mysterious trinket,
Which means the Soul (tho' few would think it),
And sparkling thus on brow so white,
Tells us we've Psyche here to-night!

But hark! some song hath caught her ears—
And, lo, how pleas'd, as though she'd ne'er
Heard the Grand Opera of the Spheres,
Her goddess-ship approves the air;
And to a mere terrestrial strain,
Inspir'd by nought but pink champagne,
Her butterfly as gaily nods
As though she sat with all her train
At some great Concert of the Gods,
With Phœbus, leader—Jove director
And half the audience drunk with nectar.

From a male group the carol came—
A few gay youths, whom round the board
The last-tried flask's superior fame
Had lur'd to taste the tide it pour'd;
And one, who, from his youth and lyre,
Seem'd grandson to the Teian sire,
Thus gaily sung, while, to his song,
Replied in chorus the gay throng:—

SONG.

Some mortals there may be, so wise, or so fine,
As in evenings like this no enjoyment to see;
But, as *I'm* not particular—wit, love, and wine,
Are for one night's amusement sufficient for me.
Nay—humble and strange as my tastes may appear—
If driv'n to the worst, I could manage, thank Heaven,

To put up with eyes such as beam round me here,
And such wine as we're sipping, six days out of seven.
So pledge me a bumper — your sages profound
May be blest, if they will, on their own patent plan:
But as we are *not* sages, why — send the cup round —
We must only be happy the best way we can.

A reward by some king was once offer'd, we're told,
To whoe'er could invent a new bliss for mankind;
But talk of *new* pleasures! — give me but the old,
And I'll leave your inventors all new ones they find.
Or should I, in quest of fresh realms of bliss,
Set sail in the pinnace of Fancy some day,
Let the rich rosy sea I embark on be this,
And such eyes as we've here be the stars of my way!
In the meantime, a bumper — your Angels, on high,
May have pleasures unknown to life's limited span;
But, as we are *not* Angels, why — let the flask fly —
We must only be happy *all* ways that we can.

Now nearly fled was sunset's light,
Leaving but so much of its beam
As gave to objects, late so bright,
The colouring of a shadowy dream;
And there was still where Day had set
A flush that spoke him loth to die —
A last link of his glory yet,
Binding together earth and sky.
Say, why is it that twilight best
Becomes even brows the loveliest?
That dimness, with its soft'ning touch,
Can bring out grace, unfelt before,
And charms we ne'er can see too much,
When seen but half enchant the more?
Alas, it is that every joy
In fulness finds its worst alloy,
And half a bliss, but hop'd or guess'd,
Is sweeter than the whole possess'd; —
That Beauty, when least shone upon,
A creature most ideal grows;
And there's no light from moon or sun
Like that Imagination throws; —
It is, alas, that Fancy shrinks
Ev'n from a bright reality,
And turning inly, feels and thinks
Far heav'nlier things than e'er will *be*.

Such was th' effect of twilight's hour
On the fair groups that, round and round,
From glade to grot, from bank to bow'r,
Now wander'd through this fairy ground;
And thus did Fancy — and champagne —
Work on the sight their dazzling spells,
Till nymphs that look'd, at noon-day, plain,
Now brighten'd, in the gloom, to belles;
And the brief interval of time,
'Twixt after dinner and before,
To dowagers brought back their prime,
And shed a halo round two-score.

Meanwhile, new pastimes for the eye,
The ear, the fancy, quick succeed;
And now along the waters fly
Light gondoles, of Venetian breed,
With knights and dames, who, calm reclin'd,
Lisp out love-sonnets as they glide —
Astonishing old Thames to find
Such doings on his moral tide.

So bright was still that tranquil river,
With the last shaft from Daylight's quiver,
That many a group, in turn, were seen
Embarking on its wave serene;
And, 'mong the rest, in chorus gay,
A band of mariners, from th' isles
Of sunny Greece, all song and smiles,
As smooth they floated, to the play
Of their oar's cadence, sung this lay: —

TRIO.

Our home is on the sea, boy,
Our home is on the sea;
When Nature gave
The ocean-wave,
She mark'd it for the Free.
Whatever storms befall, boy,
Whatever storms befall,
The island bark
Is Freedom's ark,
And floats her safe through all.

Behold yon sea of isles, boy,
Behold yon sea of isles,
Where ev'ry shore
Is sparkling o'er
With Beauty's richest smiles.
For us hath Freedom claim'd, boy,
For us hath Freedom claim'd
Those ocean-nests
Where Valour rests
His eagle wing untam'd.

And shall the Moslem dare, boy,
And shall the Moslem dare,
While Grecian hand
Can wield a brand,
To plant his Crescent there?
No—by our fathers, no, boy,
No, by the Cross we show—
From Maina's rills
To Thracia's hills
All Greece re-echoes "No!"

Like pleasant thoughts that o'er the mind
A minute come, and go again,
Ev'n so, by snatches, in the wind,
Was caught and lost that choral strain,
Now full, now faint upon the ear,
As the bark floated far or near.
At length when, lost, the closing note
Had down the waters died along,
Forth from another fairy boat,
Freighted with music, came this song:—

SONG.

Smoothly flowing through verdant vales,
Gentle river, thy current runs,
Shelter'd safe from winter gales,
Shaded cool from summer suns.
Thus our Youth's sweet moments glide,
Fenc'd with flow'ry shelter round;
No rude tempest wakes the tide,
All its path is fairy ground.

But, fair river, the day will come,
When, woo'd by whisp'ring groves in vain,
Thou'lt leave those banks, thy shaded home,
To mingle with the stormy main.
And thou, sweet Youth, too soon wilt pass
Into the world's unsheltered sea,
Where, once thy wave hath mix'd, alas,
All hope of peace is lost for thee.

Next turn we to the gay saloon
Resplendent as a summer noon,
Where, 'neath a pendent wreath of lights,
A Zodiac of flowers and tapers—
(Such as in Russian ball-rooms sheds
Its glory o'er young dancers' heads)—
Quadrille performs her mazy rites,
And reigns supreme o'er slides and capers;—
Working to death each opera strain,
As, with a foot that ne'er reposes,
She jigs through sacred and profane,
From "Maid and Magpie" up to "Moses;"—[1]
Wearing out tunes as fast as shoes,
Till fagg'd Rossini scarce respires;
Till Mayerbeer for mercy sues,
And Weber at her feet expires.

And now the set hath ceas'd—the bows
Of fiddlers taste a brief repose,
While light along the painted floor,
Arm within arm, the couples stray,
Talking their stock of nothings o'er,
Till—nothing's left, at last, to say.
When, lo!—most opportunely sent—
Two Exquisites, a he and she,
Just brought from Dandyland, and meant
For Fashion's grand Menagerie,
Enter'd the room—and scarce were there
When all flock'd round them, glad to stare
At *any* monsters, *any* where.

Some thought them perfect, to their tastes;
While others hinted that the waists
(That in particular of the *he* thing)
Left far too ample room for breathing:
Whereas, to meet these critics' wishes,
The isthmus there should be so small,
That Exquisites, at last, like fishes,
Must manage not to breathe at all.
The female (these same critics said),
Though orthodox from toe to chin,
Yet lack'd that spacious width of head
To hat of toadstool much akin—
That build of bonnet, whose extent
Should, like a doctrine of dissent,
Puzzle church-doors to let it in.

However—sad as 'twas, no doubt,
That nymph so smart should go about,
With head unconscious of the place
It *ought* to fill in Infinite Space—
Yet all allow'd that, of *her kind*,
A prettier show 'twas hard to find;
While of that doubtful genus, "dressy men,"
The male was thought a first-rate specimen.
Such *Savans*, too, as wish'd to trace
The manners, habits, of this race—

[1] In England the *partition* of this opera of Rossini was transferred to the story of Peter the Hermit; by which means the indecorum of giving such names as "Moïse," "Pharaon," &c. to the dances selected from it (as was done in Paris) has been avoided.

To know what rank (if rank at all)
'Mong reas'ning things to them should fall—
What sort of notions heaven imparts
To high-built heads and tight-lac'd hearts,
And how far Soul, which, Plato says,
Abhors restraint, can act in stays—
Might now, if gifted with discerning,
Find opportunities of learning:
As these two creatures—from their pout
And frown, 'twas plain—had just fall'n out;
And all their little thoughts, of course,
Were stirring in full fret and force;—
Like mites, through microscope espied,
A world of nothings magnified.

But mild the vent such beings seek,
The tempest of their souls to speak:
As Opera swains to fiddles sigh,
To fiddles fight, to fiddles die,
Even so this tender couple set
Their well-bred woes to a Duet.

WALTZ DUET.[1]

HE.

Long as I waltz'd with only thee,
Each blissful Wednesday that went by,
Nor stylish Stultz, nor neat Nugee
Adorn'd a youth so blest as I.
Oh! ah! ah! oh!
Those happy days are gone— heigho!

SHE.

Long as with thee I skimm'd the ground,
Nor yet was scorn'd for Lady Jane,
No blither nymph tetotum'd round
To Collinet's immortal strain.
Oh! ah! &c.
Those happy days are gone—heigho!

HE.

With Lady Jane now whirl'd about,
I know no bounds of time or breath;
And, should the charmer's head hold out,
My heart and heels are hers till death.
Oh! ah! &c.
Still round and round through life we'll go.

SHE.

To Lord Fitznoodle's eldest son,
A youth renown'd for waistcoats smart,
I now have given (excuse the pun)
A vested interest in my heart.
Oh! ah! &c.
Still round and round with him I'll go.

HE.

What if, by fond remembrance led
Again to wear our mutual chain,
For me thou cut'st Fitznoodle dead,
And I *levant* from Lady Jane.
Oh! ah! &c.
Still round and round again we'll go.

SHE.

Though he the Noodle honours give,
And thine, dear youth, are not so high,
With thee in endless waltz I'd live,
With thee, to Weber's Stop-Waltz, die!
Oh! ah! &c.
Thus round and round through life we'll go.
[*Exeunt waltzing.*

[1] It is hardly necessary to remind the reader that this Duet is a parody of the often-translated and parodied ode of Horace, "Donec gratis eram tibi," &c.

While thus, like motes that dance away
Existence in a summer ray,
These gay things, born but to quadrille,
The circle of their doom fulfil—
(That dancing doom, whose law decrees
That they should live, on the alert toe,
A life of ups-and-downs, like keys
Of Broadwood's in a long concerto:—)
While thus the fiddle's spell, *within*,
Calls up its realm of restless sprites,
Without, as if some Mandarin
Were holding there his Feast of Lights,
Lamps of all hues, from walks and bowers,
Broke on the eye, like kindling flowers,
Till, budding into light, each tree
Bore its full fruit of brilliancy.

Here shone a garden—lamps all o'er,
As though the Spirits of the Air
Had tak'n it in their heads to pour
A shower of summer meteors there;—
While here a lighted shrubb'ry led
To a small lake that sleeping lay,
Cradled in foliage, but, o'er-head,
Open to heaven's sweet breath and ray;
While round its rim there burning stood
Lamps, with young flowers beside them bedded,
That shrunk from such warm neighbourhood;
And, looking bashful in the flood,
Blush'd to behold themselves so wedded.

Hither, to this embower'd retreat,
Fit but for nights so still and sweet;

Nights, such as Eden's calm recall
In its first lonely hour, when all
So silent is, below, on high,
That if a star falls down the sky,
You almost think you hear it fall—
Hither, to this recess, a few,
To shun the dancers' wild'ring noise,
And give an hour, ere night-time flew,
To Music's more ethereal joys,
Came with their voices—ready all
As Echo, waiting for a call—
In hymn or ballad, dirge or glee,
To weave their mingling minstrelsy.

And, first, a dark-ey'd nymph, array'd—
Like her, whom Art hath deathless made,
Bright Mona Lisa[1]—with that braid
Of hair across the brow, and one
Small gem that in the centre shone—
With face, too, in its form resembling
Da Vinci's Beauties—the dark eyes,
Now lucid, as through crystal trembling,
Now soft, as if suffus'd with sighs—
Her lute, that hung beside her, took,
And, bending o'er it with shy look,
More beautiful, in shadow thus,
Than when with life most luminous,
Pass'd her light finger o'er the chords,
And sung to them these mournful words:—

SONG.

Bring hither, bring thy lute, while day is dying—
Here will I lay me, and list to thy song;
Should tones of other days mix with its sighing,
Tones of a light heart, now banish'd so long,
Chase them away—they bring but pain,
And let thy theme be woe again.

Sing on, thou mournful lute—day is fast going,
Soon will its light from thy chords die away;
One little gleam in the west is still glowing,
When that hath vanish'd, farewell to thy lay.
Mark, how it fades!—see, it is fled!
Now, sweet lute, be thou, too, dead.

The group, that late, in garb of Greeks,
Sung their light chorus o'er the tide—
Forms, such as up the wooded creeks
Of Helle's shore at noon-day glide,
Or, nightly, on her glist'ning sea,
Woo the bright waves with melody—
Now link'd their triple league again
Of voices sweet, and sung a strain,
Such as, had Sappho's tuneful ear
But caught it, on the fatal steep,
She would have paus'd, entranc'd, to hear,
And, for that day, deferr'd her leap.

SONG AND TRIO.

On one of those sweet nights that oft
Their lustre o'er th' Ægean fling,
Beneath my casement, low and soft,
I heard a Lesbian lover sing;
And, list'ning both with ear and thought,
These sounds upon the night-breeze caught—
"Oh, happy as the gods is he,
"Who gazes at this hour on thee!"

The song was one by Sappho sung,
In the first love-dreams of her lyre,
When words of passion from her tongue
Fell like a shower of living fire.
And still, at close of ev'ry strain,
I heard these burning words again—
"Oh, happy as the gods is he,
"Who listens at this hour to thee!"

Once more to Mona Lisa turn'd
Each asking eye—nor turn'd in vain;
Though the quick, transient blush that burn'd
Bright o'er her cheek, and died again,
Show'd with what inly shame and fear
Was utter'd what all lov'd to hear.
Yet not to sorrow's languid lay
Did she her lute-song now devote;
But thus, with voice that, like a ray
Of southern sunshine, seem'd to float—
So rich with climate was each note—
Call'd up in every heart a dream
Of Italy, with this soft theme:—

SONG.

Oh, where art thou dreaming,
On land, or on sea?

[1] The celebrated portrait by Leonardo da Vinci, which he is said to have occupied four years in painting.—*Vasari*, vol. vii.

In my lattice is gleaming
The watch-light for thee;
And this fond heart is glowing
To welcome thee home,
And the night is fast going,
But thou art not come:
No, thou com'st not!

'Tis the time when night-flowers
Should wake from their rest;
'Tis the hour of all hours,
When the lute singeth best.
But the flowers are half sleeping
Till *thy* glance they see!
And the hush'd lute is keeping
Its music for thee.
Yet, thou com'st not!

Scarce had the last word left her lip,
When a light, boyish form, with trip
Fantastic, up the green walk came,
Prank'd in gay vest, to which the flame
Of every lamp he pass'd, or blue,
Or green, or crimson, lent its hue;
As though a live cameleon's skin
He had despoil'd to robe him in.
A zone he wore of clatt'ring shells,
And from his lofty cap, where shone
A peacock's plume, there dangled bells
That rung as he came dancing on.
Close after him, a page—in dress
And shape, his minature express—
An ample basket, fill'd with store
Of toys and trinkets, laughing bore;
Till, having reach'd this verdant seat,
He laid it at his master's feet,
Who, half in speech and half in song,
Chaunted this invoice to the throng:—

SONG.

Who'll buy?—'tis Folly's shop, who'll buy?—
We've toys to suit all ranks and ages;
Besides our usual fools' supply,
We've lots of playthings, too, for sages.
For reasoners, here's a juggler's cup,
That fullest seems when nothing's in it;
And nine-pins set, like systems, up,
To be knock'd down the following minute.
Who'll buy?—'tis Folly's shop, who'll buy?

Gay caps we here of foolscap make,
For bards to wear in dog-day weather;
Or bards the bells alone may take,
And leave to wits the cap and feather.
Tetotums we've for patriots got,
Who court the mob with antics humble;
Like theirs the patriot's dizzy lot,
A glorious spin, and then—a tumble.
Who'll buy, &c. &c.

Here, wealthy misers to inter,
We've shrouds of neat post-obit paper;
While, for their heirs, we've *quick*silver,
That, fast as they can wish, will caper.
For aldermen we've dials true,
That tell no hour but that of dinner;
For courtly parsons sermons new,
That suit alike both saint and sinner.
Who'll buy, &c. &c.

No time we've now to name our terms,
But, whatsoe'er the whims that seize you,
This oldest of all mortal firms,
Folly and Co., will try to please you.
Or, should you wish a darker hue
Of goods than *we* can recommend you,
Why then (as we with lawyers do)
To Knavery's shop next door we'll send you.
Who'll buy, &c. &c.

While thus the blissful moments roll'd,
Moments of rare and fleeting light,
That show themselves, like grains of gold
In the mine's refuse, few and bright;
Behold where, opening far away,
The long Conservatory's range,
Stripp'd of the flowers it wore all day,
But gaining lovelier in exchange,
Presents, on Dresden's costliest ware,
A supper such as Gods might share.

Ah much-lov'd Supper!—blithe repast
Of other times, now dwindling fast,
Since Dinner far into the night
Advanc'd the march of appetite;
Deploy'd his never-ending forces
Of various vintage and three courses,
And, like those Goths who play'd the dickens
With Rome and all her sacred chickens,
Put Supper and her fowls so white,
Legs, wings, and drumsticks, all to flight.

Now wak'd once more by wine—whose tide
Is the true Hippocrene, where glide

The Muse's swans with happiest wing,
Dipping their bills, before they sing—
The minstrels of the table greet
The list'ning ear with descant sweet:—

SONG AND TRIO.

THE LEVÉE AND COUCHÉE.

Call the Loves around,
Let the whisp'ring sound
Of their wings be heard alone,
Till soft to rest
My Lady blest
At this bright hour hath gone.
Let Fancy's beams
Play o'er her dreams,
Till, touch'd with light all through,
Her spirit be
Like a summer sea,
Shining and slumb'ring too.
And, while thus hush'd she lies,
Let the whisper'd chorus rise—
"Good evening, good evening, to our Lady's bright eyes."

But the day-beam breaks,
See, our Lady wakes!
Call the Loves around once more,
Like stars that wait
At Morning's gate,
Her first steps to adore.
Let the veil of night
From her dawning sight
All gently pass away,
Like mists that flee
From a summer sea,
Leaving it full of day.
And, while her last dream flies,
Let the whisper'd chorus rise—
"Good morning, good morning, to our Lady's bright eyes"

SONG.

If to see thee be to love thee,
If to love thee be to prize
Nought of earth or heav'n above thee,
Nor to live but for those eyes:
If such love to mortal given,
Be wrong to earth, be wrong to heav'n,
'Tis not for thee the fault to blame,
For from those eyes the madness came.
Forgive but thou the crime of loving,
In this heart more pride 'twill raise
To be thus wrong, with thee approving,
Than right, with all a world to praise!

But say, while light these songs resound,
What means that buz of whisp'ring round,
From lip to lip—as if the Power
Of Mystery, in this gay hour,
Had thrown some secret (as we fling
Nuts among children) to that ring
Of rosy, restless lips, to be
Thus scrambled for so wantonly?
And, mark ye, still as each reveals
The mystic news, her hearer steals
A look tow'rds yon enchanted chair,
Where, like the Lady of the Masque,
A nymph, as exquisitely fair
As Love himself for bride could ask,
Sits blushing deep, as if aware
Of the wing'd secret circling there.
Who is this nymph? and what, oh Muse,
What, in the name of all odd things
That woman's restless brain pursues,
What mean these mystic whisperings?

Thus runs the tale:—yon blushing maid,
Who sits in beauty's light array'd,
While o'er her leans a tall young Dervise,
(Who from her eyes, as all observe, is
Learning by heart the Marriage Service,)
Is the bright heroine of our song,—
The Love-wed Psyché, whom so long
We've miss'd among this mortal train,
We thought her wing'd to heaven again.

But no—earth still demands her smile;
Her friends, the Gods, must wait awhile.
And if, for maid of heavenly birth,
A young Duke's proffer'd heart and hand
Be things worth waiting for on earth,
Both are, this hour, at her command.
To-night, in yonder half-lit shade,
For love concerns expressly meant,
The fond proposal first was made,
And love and silence blush'd consent.
Parents and friends (all here, as Jews,
Enchanters, housemaids, Turks, Hindoos,)
Have heard, approv'd, and blest the tie;
And now, hadst thou a poet's eye,
Thou might'st behold, in th' air, above
That brilliant brow, triumphant Love,

Holding, as if to drop it down
Gently upon her curls, a crown
Of Ducal shape—but, oh, such gems!
Pilfer'd from Peri diadems,
And set in gold like that which shines
To deck the Fairy of the Mines:
In short, a crown all glorious—such as
Love orders when he makes a Duchess.

But see, 'tis morn in heaven; the Sun
Up the bright orient hath begun
To canter his immortal team;
And, though not yet arriv'd in sight,
His leader's nostrils send a steam
Of radiance forth, so rosy bright
As makes their onward path all light.
What's to be done? if Sol will be
So deuced early, so must we;

And when the day thus shines outright,
Ev'n dearest friends must bid good night.
So, farewell, scene of mirth and masking,
Now almost a by-gone tale;
Beauties, late in lamp-light basking,
Now, by daylight, dim and pale;
Harpers, yawning o'er your harps,
Scarcely knowing flats from sharps;
Mothers who, while bor'd you keep
Time by nodding, nod to sleep;
Heads of air, that stood last night
Crêpé, crispy, and upright,
But have now, alas, one sees, a
Leaning like the tower of Pisa;
Fare ye well—thus sinks away
All that's mighty, all that's bright;
Tyre and Sidon had their day,
And ev'n a Ball—has but its night!

EVENINGS IN GREECE.

In thus connecting together a series of Songs by a thread of poetical narrative, my chief object has been to combine Recitation with Music, so as to enable a greater number of persons to join in the performance, by enlisting, as readers, those who may not feel willing or competent to take a part as singers.

The Island of Zea, where the scene is laid, was called by the ancients Ceos, and was the birthplace of Simonides, Bacchylides, and other eminent persons. An account of its present state may be found in the Travels of Dr. Clarke, who says, that "it appeared to him to be the best cultivated of any of the Grecian Isles."—Vol. vi. p. 174.

T. M.

EVENINGS IN GREECE.

FIRST EVENING.

"The sky is bright—the breeze is fair,
"And the mainsail flowing, full and free—
"Our farewell word is woman's pray'r,
"And the hope before us—Liberty!
"Farewell, farewell.
"To Greece we give our shining blades,
"And our hearts to you, young Zean Maids!

"The moon is in the heavens above,
"And the wind is on the foaming sea—
"Thus shines the star of woman's love
"On the glorious strife of Liberty!
"Farewell, farewell.
"To Greece we give our shining blades,
"And our hearts to you, young Zean Maids!"

Thus sung they from the bark, that now
Turn'd to the sea its gallant prow,
Bearing within it hearts as brave,
As e'er sought Freedom o'er the wave;
And leaving on that islet's shore,
Where still the farewell beacons burn,
Friends, that shall many a day look o'er
The long, dim sea for their return.

Virgin of Heaven! speed their way—
Oh, speed their way,—the chosen flow'r,

Of Zea's youth, the hope and stay
Of parents in their wintry hour,
The love of maidens, and the pride
Of the young, happy, blushing bride,
Whose nuptial wreath has not yet died—
All, all are in that precious bark,
Which now, alas, no more is seen—
Though every eye still turns to mark
The moonlight spot where it had been.

Vainly you look, ye maidens, sires,
And mothers, your belov'd are gone!—
Now may you quench those signal fires,
Whose light they long look'd back upon
From their dark deck—watching the flame
As fast it faded from their view,
With thoughts, that, but for manly shame,
Had made them droop and weep like you.
Home to your chambers! home, and pray
For the bright coming of that day,
When, bless'd by heaven, the Cross shall sweep
The Crescent from the Ægean deep,
And your brave warriors, hast'ning back,
Will bring such glories in their track,
As shall, for many an age to come,
Shed light around their name and home.

There is a Fount on Zea's isle,
Round which, in soft luxuriance, smile
All the sweet flowers, of every kind,
On which the sun of Greece looks down,
Pleas'd as a lover on the crown
His mistress for her brow hath twin'd,
When he beholds each flow'ret there,
Himself had wish'd her most to wear;
Here bloom'd the laurel-rose [1], whose wreath
Hangs radiant round the Cypriot shrines,
And here those bramble-flowers, that breathe
Their odour into Zante's wines:—[2]
The splendid woodbine, that, at eve,
To grace their floral diadems,
The lovely maids of Patmos weave:—[3]
And that fair plant, whose tangled stems
Shine like a Nereïd's hair [4], when spread,
Dishevell'd, o'er her azure bed;—
All these bright children of the clime,
(Each at its own most genial time,
The summer, or the year's sweet prime,)
Like beautiful earth-stars, adorn
The Valley, where that Fount is born:

While round, to grace its cradle green,
Groups of Velani oaks are seen,
Tow'ring on every verdant height—
Tall, shadowy, in the evening light,
Like Genii, set to watch the birth
Of some enchanted child of earth—
Fair oaks, that over Zea's vales,
Stand with their leafy pride unfurl'd;
While Commerce, from her thousand sails,
Scatters their fruit throughout the world! [5]

'Twas here—as soon as prayer and sleep
(Those truest friends to all who weep)
Had lighten'd every heart, and made
Ev'n sorrow wear a softer shade—
'Twas here, in this secluded spot,
Amid whose breathings calm and sweet
Grief might be sooth'd, if not forgot,
The Zean nymphs resolv'd to meet
Each evening now, by the same light
That saw their farewell tears that night;
And try, if sound of lute and song,
If wand'ring 'mid the moonlight flowers
In various talk, could charm along
With lighter step, the ling'ring hours,
Till tidings of that Bark should come,
Or Victory waft their warriors home!

When first they met—the wonted smile
Of greeting having gleam'd awhile—
'Twould touch ev'n Moslem heart to see
The sadness that came suddenly
O'er their young brows, when they look'd round
Upon that bright, enchanted ground;
And thought, how many a time, with those
Who now were gone to the rude wars,
They there had met, at evening's close,
And danc'd till morn outshone the stars!

But seldom long doth hang th' eclipse
Of sorrow o'er such youthful breasts—
The breath from her own blushing lips,
That on the maiden's mirror rests,
Not swifter, lighter from the glass,
Than sadness from her brow doth pass.
Soon did they now, as round the Well
They sat, beneath the rising moon—
And some, with voice of awe, would tell
Of midnight fays, and nymphs who dwell
In holy founts—while some would tune

[1] "Nerium Oleander. In Cyprus it retains its ancient name, Rhododaphne, and the Cypriots adorn their churches with the flowers on feast-days."—*Journal of Dr. Sibthorpe, Walpole's Turkey.* [2] Id.

[3] Lonicera Caprifolium, used by the girls of Patmos for garlands.

[4] Cuscuta europæa. "From the twisting and twining of the stems, it is compared by the Greeks to the dishevelled hair of the Nereïds."—*Walpole's Turkey.*

[5] "The produce of the island in these acorns alone amounts annually to fifteen thousand quintals."—*Clarke's Travels.*

Their idle lutes, that now had lain,
For days, without a single strain;—
And others, from the rest apart,
With laugh that told the lighten'd heart,
Sat, whisp'ring in each other's ear
Secrets, that all in turn would hear;—
Soon did they find this thoughtless play
So swiftly steal their griefs away,
That many a nymph, though pleas'd the while,
Reproach'd her own forgetful smile,
And sigh'd to think she *could* be gay.

Among these maidens there was one,
Who to Leucadia[1] late had been—
Had stood, beneath the evening sun,
On its white tow'ring cliffs, and seen
The very spot where Sappho sung
Her swan-like music, ere she sprung
(Still holding, in that fearful leap,
By her lov'd lyre,) into the deep,
And dying quench'd the fatal fire,
At once, of both her heart and lyre.

Mutely they listen'd all—and well
Did the young travell'd maiden tell
Of the dread height to which that steep
Beetles above the eddying deep—[2]
Of the lone sea-birds, wheeling round
The dizzy edge with mournful sound—
And of those scented lillies[3] found
Still blooming on that fearful place—
As if call'd up by Love, to grace
Th' immortal spot, o'er which the last
Bright footsteps of his martyr pass'd!

While fresh to ev'ry listener's thought
These legends of Leucadia brought
All that of Sappho's hapless flame
Is kept alive, still watch'd by Fame—
The maiden, tuning her soft lute,
While all the rest stood round her, mute,
Thus sketch'd the languishment of soul,
That o'er the tender Lesbian stole;
And, in a voice, whose thrilling tone
Fancy might deem the Lesbian's own,
One of those fervid fragments gave,
Which still,—like sparkles of Greek Fire,
Undying, ev'n beneath the wave,—
Burn on through Time, and ne'er expire.

[1] Now Santa Maura—the island, from whose cliffs Sappho leaped into the sea.

[2] "The precipice, which is fearfully dizzy, is about one hundred and fourteen feet from the water, which is of a profound depth, as appears from the dark-blue colour and the eddy that plays round the pointed and projecting rocks."—*Goodisson's Ionian Isles.*

SONG.

As o'er her loom the Lesbian Maid
In love-sick languor hung her head,
Unknowing where her fingers stray'd,
She weeping turn'd away, and said,
"Oh, my sweet Mother—'tis in vain—
"I cannot weave, as once I wove—
"So wilder'd is my heart and brain
"With thinking of that youth I love!"[4]

Again the web she tried to trace,
But tears fell o'er each tangled thread;
While, looking in her mother's face,
Who watchful o'er her lean'd, she said,
"Oh, my sweet Mother—'tis in vain—
"I cannot weave, as once I wove—
"So wilder'd is my heart and brain
"With thinking of that youth I love!"

A silence follow'd this sweet air,
As each in tender musing stood,
Thinking, with lips that mov'd in pray'r,
Of Sappho and that fearful flood:
While some, who ne'er till now had known
How much their hearts resembled hers,
Felt as they made her griefs their own,
That *they*, too, were Love's worshippers.

At length a murmur, all but mute,
So faint it was, came from the lute
Of a young melancholy maid,
Whose fingers, all uncertain play'd
From chord to chord, as if in chase
Of some lost melody, some strain
Of other times, whose faded trace
She sought among those chords again.
Slowly the half-forgotten theme
(Though born in feelings ne'er forgot)
Came to her memory—as a beam
Falls broken o'er some shaded spot;—
And while her lute's sad symphony
Fill'd up each sighing pause between;
And Love himself might weep to see
What ruin comes where he hath been—
As wither'd still the grass is found
Where fays have danc'd their merry round—

[3] See Mr. Goodisson's very interesting description of all these circumstances.

[4] I have attempted, in these four lines, to give some idea of that beautiful fragment of Sappho, beginning Γλυκεῖα μᾶτερ, which represents so truly (as Warton remarks) "the languor and listlessness of a person deeply in love."

Thus simply to the list'ning throng
She breath'd her melancholy song · —.

SONG.

Weeping for thee, my love, through the long day,
Lonely and wearily life wears away.
Weeping for thee, my love, through the long night—
No rest in darkness, no joy in light!
Nought left but Memory, whose dreary tread
Sounds through this ruin'd heart, where all lies dead—
Wakening the echo's of joy long fled!

Of many a stanza, this alone
Had scaped oblivion—like the one
Stray fragment of a wreck, which thrown,
With the lost vessel's name, ashore,
Tells who they were that live no more.

When thus the heart is in a vein
Of tender thought, the simplest strain
Can touch it with peculiar power
As when the air is warm, the scent
Of the most wild and rustic flower
Can fill the whole rich element—
And, in such moods, the homeliest tone
That's link'd with feelings, once our own—
With friends or joys gone by—will be
Worth choirs of loftiest harmony!

But some there were, among the group
Of damsels there, too light of heart
To let their spirits longer droop,
Ev'n under music's melting art;
And one upspringing, with a bound,
From a low bank of flowers, look'd round
With eyes that, though so full of light,
Had still a trembling tear within;
And, while her fingers, in swift flight,
Flew o'er a fairy mandolin,

Thus sung the song her lover late
Had sung to her—the eve before
That joyous night, when, as of yore,
All Zea met, to celebrate
The Feast of May, on the sea-shore.

SONG.

When the Balaika[1]
Is heard o'er the sea,
I'll dance the Romaika
By moonlight with thee.
If waves then, advancing,
Should steal on our play,
Thy white feet, in dancing,
Shall chase them away.[2]
When the Balaika
Is heard o'er the sea,
Thou'lt dance the Romaika,
My own love, with me.

Then, at the closing
Of each merry lay,
How sweet 'tis, reposing,
Beneath the night ray!
Or if, declining,
The moon leave the skies,
We'll talk by the shining
Of each other's eyes.

Oh then, how featly
The dance we'll renew,
Treading so fleetly
Its light mazes through:[3]
Till stars, looking o'er us
From heaven's high bow'rs,
Would change their bright chorus
For one dance of ours!
When the Balaika
Is heard o'er the sea,
Thou'lt dance the Romaika,
My own love, with me.

How changingly for ever veers
The heart of youth, 'twixt smiles and tears!

[1] This word is defrauded here, I suspect, of a syllable; Dr. Clarke, if I recollect right, makes it "Balalaika."

[2] "I saw above thirty parties engaged in dancing the Romaika upon the sand; in some of those groups, the girl who led them chased the retreating wave."—*Douglas on the Modern Greeks.*

[3] "In dancing the Romaika (says Mr. Douglas) they begin in slow and solemn step till they have gained the time, but by degrees the air becomes more sprightly; the conductress of the dance sometimes setting to her partner, sometimes darting before the rest, and leading them through the most rapid revolutions; sometimes crossing under the hands, which are held up to let her pass, and giving as much liveliness and intricacy as she can to the figures, into which she conducts her companions, while their business is to follow her in all her movements, without breaking the chain, or losing the measure."

Ev'n as in April, the light vane
Now points to sunshine, now to rain.
Instant this lively lay dispell'd
The shadow from each blooming brow,
And Dancing, joyous Dancing, held
Full empire o'er each fancy now.

But say—*what* shall the measure be?
"Shall we the old Romaika tread,
(Some eager ask'd) "as anciently
"'Twas by the maids of Delos led,
"When, slow at first, then circling fast,
"As the gay spirits rose—at last,
"With hand in hand, like links, enlock'd,
"Through the light air they seem'd to flit
"In labyrinthine maze, that mock'd
"The dazzled eye that follow'd it?"
Some call'd aloud "the Fountain Dance!"—
While one young, dark-ey'd Amazon,
Whose step was air-like, and whose glance
Flash'd, like a sabre in the sun,
Sportively said, "Shame on these soft
"And languid strains we hear so oft.
"Daughters of Freedom! have not we
"Learn'd from our lovers and our sires
"The Dance of Greece, while Greece was free—
"That Dance, where neither flutes nor lyres,
"But sword and shield clash on the ear
"A music tyrants quake to hear? [1]
"Heroines of Zea, arm with me,
"And dance the dance of Victory!"

Thus saying, she, with playful grace,
Loos'd the wide hat, that o'er her face
(From Anatolia [2] came the maid)
Hung, shadowing each sunny charm;
And, with a fair young armourer's aid,
Fixing it on her rounded arm,
A mimic shield with pride display'd;
Then, springing tow'rds a grove that spread
Its canopy of foliage near,
Pluck'd off a lance-like twig, and said,
"To arms, to arms!" while o'er her head
She wav'd the light branch, as a spear.

Promptly the laughing maidens all
Obey'd their Chief's heroic call;—
Round the shield-arm of each was tied
Hat, turban, shawl, as chance might be;
The grove, their verdant armoury,
Falchion and lance [3] alike supplied;

[1] For a description of the Pyrrhic Dance, see De Guys, &c.—It appears from Apuleius (lib. x.) that this war-dance was, among the ancients, sometimes performed by females.

[2] See the *costume* of the Greek women of Natolia in *Castellan's Mœurs des Othomans*.

And as their glossy locks, let free,
Fell down their shoulders carelessly,
You might have dream'd you saw a throng
Of youthful Thyads, by the beam
Of a May moon, bounding along
Peneus' silver-eddied [4] stream!

And now they stepp'd, with measur'd tread,
Martially, o'er the shining field;
Now, to the mimic combat led
(A heroine at each squadron's head),
Struck lance to lance and sword to shield:
While still, through every varying feat,
Their voices, heard in contrast sweet
With some, of deep but soften'd sound,
From lips of aged sires around,
Who smiling watch'd their children's play—
Thus sung the ancient Pyrrhic lay:—

SONG.

"RAISE the buckler—poise the lance—
"Now here—now there—retreat—advance!"

Such were the sounds, to which the warrior boy
Danc'd in those happy days, when Greece was free;
When Sparta's youth, ev'n in the hour of joy,
Thus train'd their steps to war and victory.
"Raise the buckler—poise the lance—
"Now here—now there—retreat—advance!"
Such was the Spartan warriors' dance.
"Grasp the falchion—gird the shield—
"Attack—defend—do all, but yield."

Thus did thy sons, oh Greece, one glorious night,
Dance by a moon like this, till o'er the sea
That morning dawn'd by whose immortal light
They nobly died for thee and liberty! [5]
"Raise the buckler—poise the lance—
"Now here—now there—retreat—advance!"
Such was the Spartan heroes' dance.

Scarce had they clos'd this martial lay
When, flinging their light spears away,

[3] The sword was the weapon chiefly used in this dance.

[4] Homer, Il. ii. 753.

[5] It is said that Leonidas and his companions employed themselves, on the eve of the battle, in music and the gymnastic exercises of their country.

The combatants, in broken ranks,
All breathless from the war-field fly;
And down, upon the velvet banks
And flow'ry slopes, exhausted lie,
Like rosy huntresses of Thrace,
Resting at sunset from the chase.

"Fond girls!" an aged Zean said—
One who, himself, had fought and bled,
And now, with feelings, half delight,
Half sadness, watch'd their mimic fight—
"Fond maids! who thus with War can jest—
"Like Love, in Mars's helmet drest,
"When, in his childish innocence,
"Pleas'd with the shade that helmet flings,
"He thinks not of the blood, that thence
"Is dropping o'er his snowy wings.
"Ay—true it is, young patriot maids,
"If Honour's arm still won the fray,
"If luck but shone on righteous blades,
"War were a game for gods to play!
"But, no, alas!—hear one, who well
"Hath track'd the fortunes of the brave—
"Hear *me*, in mournful ditty, tell
"What glory waits the patriot's grave:"—

SONG.

As by the shore, at break of day,
A vanquish'd Chief expiring lay,
Upon the sands, with broken sword,
He trac'd his farewell to the Free;
And, there, the last unfinish'd word
He dying wrote was "Liberty!"

At night a Sea-bird shriek'd the knell
Of him who thus for Freedom fell;
The words he wrote, ere evening came,
Were cover'd by the sounding sea;—
So pass away the cause and name
Of him who dies for Liberty!

That tribute of subdued applause
A charm'd, but timid, audience pays,
That murmur, which a minstrel draws
From hearts, that feel, but fear to praise,
Follow'd this song, and left a pause
Of silence after it, that hung
Like a fix'd spell on every tongue.

At length, a low and tremulous sound
Was heard from midst a group, that round
A bashful maiden stood, to hide
Her blushes, while the lute she tried—
Like roses, gath'ring round to veil
The song of some young nightingale,
Whose trembling notes steal out between
The cluster'd leaves, herself unseen.
And, while that voice, in tones that more
Through feeling than through weakness err'd,
Came, with a stronger sweetness, o'er
Th' attentive ear, this strain was heard:—

SONG.

I saw, from yonder silent cave,
Two Fountains running, side by side,
The one was Mem'ry's limpid wave,
The other cold Oblivion's tide.
"Oh Love!" said I, in thoughtless mood,
As deep I drank of Lethe's stream,
"Be all my sorrows in this flood
"Forgotten like a vanish'd dream!"

But who could bear that gloomy blank,
Where joy was lost as well as pain?
Quickly of Mem'ry's fount I drank,
And brought the past all back again;
And said, "Oh Love! whate'er my lot,
"Still let this soul to thee be true—
"Rather than have one bliss forgot,
"Be all my pains remember'd too!"

The group that stood around, to shade
The blushes of that bashful maid,
Had, by degrees, as came the lay
More strongly forth, retir'd away,
Like a fair shell, whose valves divide,
To show the fairer pearl inside:
For such she was—a creature, bright
And delicate as those day-flow'rs,
Which, while they last, make up, in light
And sweetness, what they want in hours.

[1] "This morning we paid our visit to the Cave of Trophonius, and the Fountains of Memory and Oblivion, just upon the water of Hercyna, which flows through stupendous rocks."—*Williams's Travels in Greece.*

So rich upon the ear had grown
Her voice's melody—its tone
Gath'ring new courage, as it found
An echo in each bosom round—
That, ere the nymph, with downcast eye
Still on the chords, her lute laid by,
"Another Song," all lips exclaim'd,
And each some matchless fav'rite nam'd;
While blushing, as her fingers ran
O'er the sweet chords, she thus began:—

SONG.

Oh, Memory, how coldly
Thou paintest joy gone by:
Like rainbows, thy pictures
But mournfully shine and die.
Or, if some tints thou keepest,
That former days recall,
As o'er each line thou weepest,
Thy tears efface them all.

But, Memory, too truly
Thou paintest grief that's past;
Joy's colours are fleeting,
But those of Sorrow last.
And, while thou bring'st before us
Dark pictures of past ill,
Life's evening, closing o'er us,
But makes them darker still.

So went the moonlight hours along,
In this sweet glade; and so, with song
And witching sounds—not such as they,
The cymbalists of Ossa, play'd,
To chase the moon's eclipse away,[1]
But soft and holy—did each maid
Lighten her heart's eclipse awhile,
And win back Sorrow to a smile.

Not far from this secluded place,
On the sea-shore a ruin stood;—
A relic of th' extinguish'd race,
Who once look'd o'er that foamy flood,
When fair Ioulis[2], by the light
Of golden sunset, on the sight
Of mariners who sail'd that sea,
Rose, like a city of chrysolite,
Call'd from the wave by witchery.
This ruin—now by barb'rous hands
Debas'd into a motley shed,
Where the once splendid column stands
Inverted on its leafy head—
Form'd, as they tell, in times of old,
The dwelling of that bard, whose lay
Could melt to tears the stern and cold,
And sadden, 'mid their mirth, the gay—
Simonides[3], whose fame, through years
And ages past, still bright appears—
Like Hesperus, a star of tears!

'Twas hither now—to catch a view
Of the white waters, as they play'd
Silently in the light—a few
Of the more restless damsels stray'd;
And some would linger 'mid the scent
Of hanging foliage, that perfum'd
The ruin'd walls; while others went,
Culling whatever flow'ret bloom'd
In the lone leafy space between,
Where gilded chambers once had been;
Or, turning sadly to the sea,
Sent o'er the wave a sigh unblest
To some brave champion of the Free—
Thinking, alas, how cold might be,
At that still hour, his place of rest!

Meanwhile there came a sound of song
From the dark ruins—a faint strain,
As if some echo, that among
Those minstrel halls had slumber'd long,
Were murm'ring into life again.

But, no—the nymphs knew well the tone—
A maiden of their train, who lov'd,
Like the night-bird, to sing alone,
Had deep into those ruins rov'd,
And there, all other thoughts forgot,
Was warbling o'er, in lone delight,
A lay that, on that very spot,
Her lover sung one moonlight night:—

SONG.

Ah! where are they, who heard, in former hours,
The voice of Song in these neglected bow'rs?
They are gone—all gone!

[1] This superstitious custom of the Thessalians exists also, as Pietro della Valle tells us, among the Persians.

[2] An ancient city of Zea, the walls of which were of marble. Its remains (says Clarke) "extend from the shore, quite into a valley watered by the streams of a fountain, whence Ioulis received its name."

[3] Zea was the birthplace of this poet, whose verses are by Catullus called "tears."

The youth, who told his pain in such sweet tone,
That all, who heard him, wish'd his pain their own—
He is gone—he is gone!

And she, who, while he sung, sat list'ning by,
And thought, to strains like these 'twere sweet to die—
She is gone—she too is gone!

'Tis thus, in future hours, some bard will say
Of her, who hears, and him, who sings this lay—
They are gone—they both are gone!

The moon was now, from Heaven's steep,
Bending to dip her silv'ry urn
Into the bright and silent deep—
And the young nymphs, on their return
From those romantic ruins, found
Their other playmates, rang'd around
The sacred Spring, prepar'd to tune
Their parting hymn [1], ere sunk the moon,
To that fair Fountain, by whose stream
Their hearts had form'd so many a dream.

Who has not read the tales, that tell
Of old Eleusis' sacred Well,
Or heard what legend-songs recount
Of Syra, and its holy Fount,[2]
Gushing, at once, from the hard rock
Into the laps of living flowers—
Where village maidens lov'd to flock,
On summer-nights, and, like the hours,
Link'd in harmonious dance and song,
Charm'd the unconscious night along;
While holy pilgrims, on their way
To Delos' isle, stood looking on,
Enchanted with a scene so gay,
Nor sought their boats, till morning shone?

Such was the scene this lovely glade
And its fair inmates now display'd,
As round the Fount, in linked ring,
They went, in cadence slow and light,
And thus to that enchanted Spring
Warbled their Farewell for the night:—

SONG.

HERE, while the moonlight dim
Falls on that mossy brim,
Sing we our Fountain Hymn,
Maidens of Zea!
Nothing but Music's strain,
When Lovers part in pain,
Soothes, till they meet again,
Oh, Maids of Zea!

Bright Fount, so clear and cold,
Round which the nymphs of old
Stood, with their locks of gold,
Fountain of Zea!
Not even Castaly,
Fam'd though its streamlet be,
Murmurs or shines like thee,
Oh, Fount of Zea!

Thou, while our hymn we sing,
Thy silver voice shall bring,
Answering, answering,
Sweet Fount of Zea!
For, of all rills that run,
Sparkling by moon or sun,
Thou art the fairest one,
Bright Fount of Zea!

Now, by those stars that glance
Over heaven's still expanse,
Weave we our mirthful dance,
Daughters of Zea!
Such as, in former days,
Danc'd they, by Dian's rays,
Where the Eurotas strays,[3]
Oh, Maids of Zea!

But when to merry feet
Hearts with no echo beat,
Say, can the dance be sweet?
Maidens of Zea!
No, nought but Music's strain,
When lovers part in pain,
Soothes, till they meet again,
Oh, Maids of Zea!

[1] These "Songs of the Well," as they were called among the ancients, still exist in Greece. *De Guys* tells us that he has seen "the young women in Prince's Island, assembled in the evening at a public well, suddenly strike up a dance, while others sung in concert to them."

[2] "The inhabitants of Syra, both ancient and modern, may be considered as the worshippers of water. The old fountain, at which the nymphs of the island assembled in the earliest ages, exists in its original state; the same rendezvous as it was formerly, whether of love and gallantry, or of gossiping and tale-telling. It is near to the town, and the most limpid water gushes continually from the solid rock. It is regarded by the inhabitants with a degree of religious veneration; and they preserve a tradition, that the pilgrims of old time, in their way to Delos, resorted hither for purification."—*Clarke.*

[3] "Qualis in Eurotæ ripis, aut per juga Cynthi
Exercet Diana choros."—*Virgil.*

SECOND EVENING.

SONG.

When evening shades are falling
O'er Ocean's sunny sleep,
To pilgrims' hearts recalling
Their home beyond the deep;
When, rest o'er all descending,
The shores with gladness smile,
And lutes, their echoes blending,
Are heard from isle to isle,
Then, Mary, Star of the Sea,[1]
We pray, we pray, to thee!

The noon-day tempest over,
Now Ocean toils no more,
And wings of halcyons hover,
Where all was strife before.
Oh thus may life, in closing
Its short tempestuous day,
Beneath heaven's smile reposing,
Shine all its storms away:
Thus, Mary, Star of the Sea,
We pray, we pray, to thee!

On Helle's sea the light grew dim,
As the last sounds of that sweet hymn
Floated along its azure tide—
Floated in light, as if the lay
Had mix'd with sunset's fading ray,
And light and song together died.
So soft through evening's air had breath'd
That choir of youthful voices, wreath'd
In many-linked harmony,
That boats, then hurrying o'er the sea,
Paus'd, when they reach'd this fairy shore,
And linger'd till the strain was o'er.

Of those young maids who've met to fleet
In song and dance this evening's hours,
Far happier now the bosoms beat,
Than when they last adorn'd these bowers;
For tidings of glad sound had come,
At break of day, from the far isles—
Tidings like breath of life to some—
That Zea's sons would soon wing home,
Crown'd with the light of Vict'ry's smiles
To meet that brightest of all meeds
That wait on high, heroic deeds,

When gentle eyes that scarce, for tears,
Could trace the warrior's parting track,
Shall, like a misty morn that clears,
When the long-absent sun appears,
Shine out, all bliss, to hail him back.

How fickle still the youthful breast!—
More fond of change than a young moon,
No joy so new was e'er possess'd
But Youth would leave for newer soon.
These Zean nymphs, though bright the spot,
Where first they held their evening play,
As ever fell to fairy's lot
To wanton o'er by midnight's ray,
Had now exchang'd that shelter'd scene
For a wide glade beside the sea—
A lawn, whose soft expanse of green
Turn'd to the west sun smilingly,
As though, in conscious beauty bright,
It joy'd to give him light for light.

And ne'er did evening more serene
Look down from heav'n on lovelier scene.
Calm lay the flood around, while fleet,
O'er the blue shining element,
Light barks, as if with fairy feet
That stirr'd not the hush'd waters, went;
Some that, ere rosy eve fell o'er
The blushing wave, with mainsail free,
Had put forth from the Attic shore,
Or the near Isle of Ebony;—
Some, Hydriot barks, that deep in caves
Beneath Colonna's pillar'd cliffs,
Had all day lurk'd, and o'er the waves
Now shot their long and dart-like skiffs.
Woe to the craft, however fleet,
These sea-hawks in their course shall meet,
Laden with juice of Lesbian vines,
Or rich from Naxos' emery mines;
For not more sure, when owlets flee
O'er the dark crags of Pendelee,
Doth the night-falcon mark his prey,
Or pounce on it more fleet than they.

And what a moon now lights the glade
Where these young island nymphs are met!
Full-orb'd, yet pure, as if no shade
Had touch'd its virgin lustre yet;
And freshly bright, as if just made
By Love's own hands, of new-born light
Stol'n from his mother's star to-night.

On a bold rock, that o'er the flood
Jutted from that soft glade, there stood
A Chapel, fronting tow'rds the sea,—
Built in some by-gone century,—

[1] One of the titles of the Virgin:—"Maria illuminatrix, sive Stella Maris."—*Isidor.*

Where, nightly, as the seaman's mark,
When waves rose high or clouds were dark,
A lamp, bequeath'd by some kind Saint,
Shed o'er the wave its glimmer faint,
Waking in way-worn men a sigh
And pray'r to heav'n, as they went by.
'Twas there, around that rock-built shrine,
A group of maidens and their sires
Had stood to watch the day's decline,
And, as the light fell o'er their lyres,
Sung to the Queen-Star of the Sea
That soft and holy melody.

But lighter thoughts and lighter song
Now woo the coming hours along:
For, mark, where smooth the herbage lies,
Yon gay pavilion, curtain'd deep
With silken folds, through which, bright eyes,
From time to time, are seen to peep;
While twinkling lights that, to and fro,
Beneath those veils, like meteors, go,
Tell of some spells at work, and keep
Young fancies chain'd in mute suspense,
Watching what next may shine from thence.
Nor long the pause, ere hands unseen
That mystic curtain backward drew
And all, that late but shone between,
In half-caught gleams, now burst to view.
A picture 'twas of the early days
Of glorious Greece, ere yet those rays
Of rich, immortal Mind were hers
That made mankind her worshippers;
While, yet unsung, her landscapes shone
With glory lent by Heaven alone;
Nor temples crown'd her nameless hills,
Nor Muse immortalis'd her rills;
Nor aught but the mute poesy
Of sun, and stars, and shining sea
Illum'd that land of bards to be.
While, prescient of the gifted race
That yet would realm so blest adorn,
Nature took pains to deck the place
Where glorious Art was to be born.

Such was the scene that mimic stage
Of Athens and her hills portray'd;
Athens, in her first, youthful age,
Ere yet the simple violet braid,[1]
Which then adorn'd her, had shone down
The glory of earth's loftiest crown.
While yet undream'd, her seeds of Art
Lay sleeping in the marble mine—
Sleeping till Genius bade them start
To all but life, in shapes divine;
Till deified the quarry shone
And all Olympus stood in stone!

There, in the foreground of that scene,
On a soft bank of living green,
Sat a young nymph, with her lap full
Of newly gather'd flowers, o'er which
She graceful lean'd, intent to cull
All that was there of hue most rich,
To form a wreath, such as the eye
Of her young lover, who stood by,
With pallet mingled fresh, might choose
To fix by Painting's rainbow hues.

The wreath was form'd; the maiden rais'd
Her speaking eyes to his, while he—
Oh *not* upon the flowers now gaz'd,
But on that bright look's witchery.
While, quick as if but then the thought,
Like light, had reach'd his soul, he caught
His pencil up, and, warm and true
As life itself, that love-look drew:
And, as his raptur'd task went on,
And forth each kindling feature shone,
Sweet voices, through the moonlight air,
From lips as moonlight fresh and pure,
Thus hail'd the bright dream passing there,
And sung the Birth of Portraiture.[2]

SONG.

As once a Grecian maiden wove
Her garland mid the summer bow'rs,
There stood a youth, with eyes of love,
To watch her while she wreath'd the flow'rs.
The youth was skill'd in Painting's art,
But ne'er had studied woman's brow,
Nor knew what magic hues the heart
Can shed o'er Nature's charms, till now.

CHORUS.

Blest be Love, to whom we owe
All that's fair and bright below.

His hand had pictur'd many a rose,
And sketch'd the rays that light the brook;
But what were these, or what were those,
To woman's blush, to woman's look?
"Oh, if such magic pow'r there be,
"This, this," he cried, "is all my prayer,
"To paint that living light I see,
"And fix the soul that sparkles there."

[1] "Violet-crowned Athens."—*Pindar.*

[2] The whole of this scene was suggested by Pliny's account of the artist Pausias and his mistress Glycera, lib. xxxv. c. 40.

His prayer, as soon as breath'd, was heard;
His pallet, touch'd by Love, grew warm,
And Painting saw her hues transferr'd
From lifeless flow'rs to woman's form.
Still as from tint to tint he stole,
The fair design shone out the more,
And there was now a life, a soul,
Where only colours glow'd before.

Then first carnations learn'd to speak,
And lillies into life were brought;
While, mantling on the maiden's cheek,
Young roses kindled into thought.
Then hyacinths their darkest dyes
Upon the locks of Beauty threw;
And violets, transform'd to eyes,
Inshrin'd a soul within their blue.

CHORUS.

Blest be Love, to whom we owe
All that's fair and bright below.
Song was cold and Painting dim
Till song and Painting learn'd from him.

Soon as the scene had clos'd, a cheer
Of gentle voices, old and young,
Rose from the groups that stood to hear
This tale of yore so aptly sung;
And while some nymphs, in haste to tell
The workers of that fairy spell
How crown'd with praise their task had been,
Stole in behind the curtain'd scene,
The rest, in happy converse stray'd—
Talking that ancient love-tale o'er—
Some, to the groves that skirt the glade,
Some, to the chapel by the shore,
To look what lights were on the sea,
And think of th' absent silently.

But soon that summons, known so well
Through bow'r and hall, in Eastern lands,
Whose sound, more sure than gong or bell,
Lovers and slaves alike commands,—
The clapping of young female hands,
Calls back the groups from rock and field
To see some new-form'd scene reveal'd;—
And fleet and eager, down the slopes
Of the green glade, like antelopes,
When, in their thirst, they hear the sound
Of distant rills, the light nymphs bound.

Far different now the scene—a waste
Of Libyan sands, by moonlight's ray;
An ancient well, whereon were trac'd
The warning words, for such as stray
Unarmed there, "Drink and away!"[1]
While, near it, from the night-ray screen'd,
And like his bells, in hush'd repose,
A camel slept—young as if wean'd
When last the star, Canopus, rose.[2]

Such was the back-ground's silent scene;—
While nearer lay, fast slumb'ring too,
In a rude tent, with brow serene,
A youth whose cheeks of way-worn hue
And pilgrim-bonnet, told the tale
That he had been to Mecca's Vale:
Happly in pleasant dreams, ev'n now
Thinking the long wish'd hour is come
When, o'er the well-known porch at home,
His hand shall hang the aloe bough—
Trophy of his accomplish'd vow.[3]
But brief his dream—for now the call
Of the camp-chiefs from rear to van,
"Bind on your burdens[4]," wakes up all
The widely slumb'ring caravan;
And thus meanwhile, to greet the ear
Of the young pilgrim as he wakes,
The song of one who, ling'ring near,
Had watch'd his slumber, cheerly breaks.

SONG.

Up and march! the timbrel's sound
Wakes the slumb'ring camp around;
Fleet thy hour of rest hath gone,
Armed sleeper, up, and on!
Long and weary is our way
O'er the burning sands to-day;

[1] The traveller Shaw mentions a beautiful rill in Barbary, which is received into a large bason called *Shrub wee krub*, "Drink and away,"—there being great danger of meeting with thieves and assassins in such places.

[2] The Arabian shepherd has a peculiar ceremony in weaning the young camel: when the proper time arrives, he turns the camel towards the rising star, Canopus, and says, "Do you see Canopus? from this moment you taste not another drop of milk." — *Richardson.*

[3] "Whoever returns from a pilgrimage to Mecca hangs this plant (the mitre-shaped Aloe) over his street-door, as a token of his having performed this holy journey." — *Hasselquist.*

[4] This form of notice to the caravans to prepare for marching was applied by Hafiz to the necessity of relinquishing the pleasures of this world, and preparing for death:—"For me what room is there for pleasure in the bower of Beauty, when every moment the bell makes proclamation, 'Bind on your burdens?'"

But to pilgrim's homeward feet
Ev'n the desert's path is sweet.

When we lie at dead of night,
Looking up to heaven's light,
Hearing but the watchman's tone
Faintly chaunting "God is one,"[1]
Oh what thoughts then o'er us come
Of our distant village home,
Where that chaunt, when ev'ning sets,
Sounds from all the minarets.

Cheer thee!—soon shall signal lights,
Kindling o'er the Red Sea heights,
Kindling quick from man to man,
Hail our coming caravan:[2]
Think what bliss that hour will be!
Looks of home again to see,
And our names again to hear
Murmur'd out by voices dear.

So pass'd the desert dream away,
Fleeting as his who heard this lay.
Nor long the pause between, nor mov'd
The spell-bound audience from that spot;
While still, as usual, Fancy rov'd
On to the joy that yet was not;—
Fancy, who hath no present home,
But builds her bower in scenes to come,
Walking for ever in a light
That flows from regions out of sight.

But see, by gradual dawn descried,
A mountain realm—rugged as e'er
Uprais'd to heav'n its summits bare,
Or told to earth, with frown of pride,
That Freedom's falcon nest was there,
Too high for hand of lord or king
To hood her brow, or chain her wing.

'Tis Maina's land—her ancient hills,
The abode of nymphs[3]—her countless rills
And torrents, in their downward dash,
Shining, like silver, through the shade
Of the sea-pine and flow'ring ash—
All with a truth so fresh portray'd
As wants but touch of life to be
A world of warm reality.

[1] The watchmen, in the camp of the caravans, go their rounds, crying one after another, "God is one," &c. &c.

[2] "It was customary," says Irwin, "to light up fires on the mountains, within view of Cosseir, to give notice of the approach of the caravans that came from the Nile."

And now, light bounding forth, a band
Of mountaineers, all smiles, advance—
Nymphs with their lovers, hand in hand,
Link'd in the Ariadne dance;[4]
And while, apart from that gay throng,
A minstrel youth, in varied song,
Tells of the loves, the joys, the ills
Of these wild children of the hills,
The rest by turns, or fierce or gay,
As war or sport inspires the lay,
Follow each change that wakes the strings,
And act what thus the lyrist sings:—

SONG.

No life is like the mountaineer's,
His home is near the sky,
Where, thron'd above this world, he hears
Its strife at distance die.
Or, should the sound of hostile drum
Proclaim below, "We come—we come,"
Each crag that towr's in air
Gives answer, "Come who dare!"
While, like bees, from dell and dingle,
Swift the swarming warriors mingle,
And their cry "Hurra!" will be,
"Hurra, to victory!"

Then, when battle's hour is over,
See the happy mountain lover,
With the nymph, who'll soon be bride,
Seated blushing by his side,—
Every shadow of his lot
In her sunny smile forgot.
Oh, no life is like the mountaineer's,
His home is near the sky,
Where, thron'd above this world, he hears
Its strife at distance die.
Nor only thus through summer suns
His blithe existence cheerly runs—
Ev'n winter, bleak and dim,
Brings joyous hours to him;
When, his rifle behind him flinging,
He watches the roe-buck springing,
And away, o'er the hills away
Re-echoes his glad "hurra."

Then how blest, when night is closing,
By the kindled hearth reposing,

[3] ——— virginibus bacchata Laconis Taygeta. VIRG.

[4] See, for an account of this dance, De Guy's Travels.

To his rebeck's drowsy song,
He beguiles the hour along;
Or, provok'd by merry glances,
To a brisker movement dances,
Till, weary at last, in slumber's chain,
He dreams o'er chase and dance again,
Dreams, dreams them o'er again.

As slow that minstrel, at the close,
Sunk, while he sung, to feign'd repose,
Aptly did they, whose mimic art
Follow'd the changes of his lay,
Portray the lull, the nod, the start,
Through which, as faintly died away
His lute and voice, the minstrel pass'd,
Till voice and lute lay hush'd at last.

But now far other song came o'er
Their startled ears—song that, at first,
As solemnly the night-wind bore
Across the wave its mournful burst,
Seem'd to the fancy, like a dirge
Of some lone Spirit of the Sea,
Singing o'er Helle's ancient surge
The requiem of her Brave and Free.

Sudden, amid their pastime, pause
The wond'ring nymphs; and, as the sound
Of that strange music nearer draws,
With mute enquiring eye look round,
Asking each other what can be
The source of this sad minstrelsy?
Nor longer can they doubt, the song
Comes from some island-bark, which now
Courses the bright waves swift along,
And soon, perhaps, beneath the brow
Of the Saint's Rock will shoot its prow.

Instantly all, with hearts that sigh'd
'Twixt fear's and fancy's influence,
Flew to the rock, and saw from thence
A red-sail'd pinnace tow'rds them glide,
Whose shadow, as it swept the spray,
Scatter'd the moonlight's smiles away.
Soon as the mariners saw that throng
From the cliff gazing, young and old,
Sudden they slack'd their sail and song,
And, while their pinnace idly roll'd
On the light surge, these tidings told:—

'Twas from an isle of mournful name,
From Missolonghi, last they came—
Sad Missolonghi, sorrowing yet
O'er him, the noblest Star of Fame
That e'er in life's young glory set!—
And now were on their mournful way,
Wafting the news through Helle's isles;—
News that would cloud ev'n Freedom's ray,
And sadden Vict'ry 'mid her smiles.
Their tale thus told, and heard, with pain,
Out spread the galliot's wings again;
And, as she sped her swift career,
Again that Hymn rose on the ear—
"Thou art not dead—thou art not dead!"
As oft 'twas sung, in ages flown,
Of him, the Athenian, who, to shed
A tyrant's blood, pour'd out his own.

SONG.

Thou art not dead—thou art not dead![1]
No, dearest Harmodius, no.
Thy soul, to realms above us fled,
Though, like a star, it dwells o'er head,
Still lights this world below.
Thou art not dead—thou art not dead!
No, dearest Harmodius, no.

Through isles of light, where heroes tread
And flow'rs ethereal blow,
Thy god-like Spirit now is led,
Thy lip, with life ambrosial fed,
Forgets all taste of woe.
Thou art not dead—thou art not dead!
No, dearest Harmodius, no.

The myrtle, round that falchion spread
Which struck the immortal blow,
Throughout all time, with leaves unshed—
The patriot's hope, the tyrant's dread—
Round Freedom's shrine shall grow.
Thou art not dead—thou art not dead!
No, dearest Harmodius, no.

Where hearts like thine have broke or bled,
Though quench'd the vital glow,
Their mem'ry lights a flame, instead,
Which, ev'n from out the narrow bed
Of death its beams shall throw.
Thou art not dead—thou art not dead!
No, dearest Harmodius, no.

Thy name, by myriads sung and said,
From age to age shall go,

[1] Φιλταθ' Αρμοδι' ουτω τεθνηκας.

Long as the oak and ivy wed,
As bees shall haunt Hymettus' head,
Or Helle's waters flow.
Thou art not dead — thou art not dead!
No, dearest Harmodius, no.

'Mong those who linger'd list'ning there, —
List'ning, with ear and eye, as long
As breath of night could tow'rds them bear
A murmur of that mournful song, —
A few there were, in whom the lay
Had call'd up feelings far too sad
To pass with the brief strain away,
Or turn at once to theme more glad;
And who, in mood untun'd to meet
The light laugh of the happier train,
Wander'd to seek some moonlight seat
Where they might rest, in converse sweet,
Till vanish'd smiles should come again.

And seldom e'er hath noon of night
To sadness lent more soothing light.
On one side, in the dark blue sky,
Lonely and radiant, was the eye
Of Jove himself, while, on the other,
'Mong tiny stars that round her gleam'd,
The young moon, like the Roman mother
Among her living "jewels," beam'd.

Touch'd by the lovely scenes around,
A pensive maid – one who, though young,
Had known what 'twas to see unwound
The ties by which her heart had clung —
Waken'd her soft tamboura's sound,
And to its faint accords thus sung: —

SONG.

Calm as, beneath its mother's eyes,
In sleep the smiling infant lies,
So, watch'd by all the stars of night,
Yon landscape sleeps in light.
And while the night-breeze dies away,
Like relics of some faded strain,
Lov'd voices, lost for many a day,
Seem whisp'ring round again.
Oh youth! oh Love! ye dreams, that shed
Such glory once — where are ye fled?

Pure ray of light that, down the sky,
Art pointing, like an angel's wand,
As if to guide to realms that lie
In that bright sea beyond:
Who knows but, in some brighter deep
Than ev'n that tranquil, moon-lit main,
Some land may lie, where those who weep
Shall wake to smile again!

With cheeks that had regain'd their power
And play of smiles, — and each bright eye,
Like violets after morning's shower,
The brighter for the tears gone by,
Back to the scene such smiles should grace
These wand'ring nymphs their path retrace,
And reach the spot, with rapture new,
Just as the veils asunder flew,
And a fresh vision burst to view.

There, by her own bright Attic flood,
The blue-ey'd Queen of Wisdom stood; —
Not as she haunts the sage's dreams,
With brow unveil'd, divine, severe;
But soften'd, as on bards she beams,
When fresh from Poesy's high sphere,
A music, not her own, she brings,
And, through the veil which Fancy flings
O'er her stern features, gently sings.

But who is he — that urchin nigh,
With quiver on the rose-trees hung,
Who seems just dropp'd from yonder sky,
And stands to watch that maid, with eye
So full of thought, for one so young? —
That child — but, silence! lend thine ear,
And thus in song the tale thou'lt hear: —

SONG.

As Love, one summer eve, was straying,
Who should he see, at that soft hour,
But young Minerva, gravely playing
Her flute within an olive bow'r.
I need not say, 'tis Love's opinion
That, grave or merry, good or ill,
The sex all bow to his dominion,
As woman will be woman still.

Though seldom yet the boy hath giv'n
To learned dames his smiles or sighs,
So handsome Pallas look'd, that ev'n,
Love quite forgot the maid was wise.

Besides, a youth of his discerning
Knew well that, by a shady rill,
At sunset hour, whate'er her learning,
A woman will be woman still.

Her flute he prais'd in terms extatic,—
Wishing it dumb, nor car'd how soon;—
For Wisdom's notes, howe'er chromatic,
To Love seem always out of tune.
But long as he found face to flatter,
The nymph found breath to shake and thrill;
As, weak or wise—it doesn't matter—
Woman, at heart, is woman still.

Love chang'd his plan, with warmth exclaiming,
"How rosy was her lip's soft dye!"
And much that flute, the flatt'rer, blaming,
For twisting lips so sweet awry.
The nymph look'd down, beheld her features
Reflected in the passing rill,
And started, shock'd—for, ah, ye creatures!
Ev'n when divine, you're women still.

Quick from the lips it made so odious,
That graceless flute the Goddess took,
And, while yet fill'd with breath melodious,
Flung it into the glassy brook;
Where, as its vocal life was fleeting
Adown the current, faint and shrill,
'Twas heard in plaintive tone repeating,
"Woman, alas, vain woman still!"

An interval of dark repose—
Such as the summer lightning knows,
'Twixt flash and flash, as still more bright
The quick revealment comes and goes,
Op'ning each time the veils of night,
To show, within, a world of light—
Such pause, so brief, now pass'd between
This last gay vision and the scene,
Which now its depth of light disclos'd.
A bow'r it seem'd, an Indian bow'r,
Within whose shade a nymph repos'd,
Sleeping away noon's sunny hour—
Lovely as she, the Sprite, who weaves
Her mansion of sweet Durva leaves,
And there, as Indian legends say,
Dreams the long summer hours away.
And mark, how charm'd this sleeper seems
With some hid fancy—she, too, dreams!
Oh for a wizard's art to tell
The wonders that now bless her sight!
'Tis done—a truer, holier spell
Than e'er from wizard's lip yet fell
Thus brings her vision all to light:—

SONG.

"Who comes so gracefully
"Gliding along,
"While the blue rivulet
"Sleeps to her song;
"Song, richly vying
"With the faint sighing
"Which swans, in dying,
"Sweetly prolong?"

So sung the shepherd-boy
By the stream's side,
Watching that fairy boat
Down the flood glide,
Like a bird winging,
Through the waves bringing
That Syren, singing
To the hush'd tide.

"Stay," said the shepherd-boy,
"Fairy-boat, stay,
"Linger, sweet minstrelsy,
"Linger, a day."
But vain his pleading,
Past him, unheeding,
Song and boat, speeding,
Glided away.

So to our youthful eyes
Joy and hope shone;
So, while we gaz'd on them,
Fast they flew on;—
Like flow'rs, declining
Ev'n in the twining,
One moment shining,
And, the next, gone!

Soon as the imagin'd dream went by,
Uprose the nymph, with anxious eye
Turn'd to the clouds, as though some boon
She waited from that sun-bright dome,
And marvell'd that it came not soon
As her young thoughts would have it come.

But joy is in her glance!—the wing
Of a white bird is seen above;
And oh, if round his neck he bring
The long-wish'd tidings from her love,
Not half so precious in her eyes
Ev'n that high-omen'd bird[1] would be,

[1] The Huma.

Who dooms the brow o'er which he flies
To wear a crown of Royalty.

She had, herself, last evening, sent
A winged messenger, whose flight
Through the clear, roseate element,
She watch'd till, less'ning out of sight,
Far to the golden West it went,
Wafting to him, her distant love,
A missive in that language wrought
Which flow'rs can speak, when aptly wove,
Each hue a word, each leaf a thought.

And now—oh speed of pinion, known
To Love's light messengers alone!—
Ere yet another ev'ning takes
Its farewell of the golden lakes,
She sees another envoy fly,
With the wish'd answer, through the sky.

SONG.

Welcome, sweet bird, through the sunny air winging,
Swift hast thou come o'er the far-shining sea,
Like Seba's dove, on thy snowy neck bringing
Love's written vows from my lover to me.
Oh, in thy absence, what hours did I number!—
Saying oft, "Idle bird, how could he rest?"
But thou art come at last, take now thy slumber,
And lull thee in dreams of all thou lov'st best.

Yet dost thou droop—even now while I utter
Love's happy welcome, thy pulse dies away;
Cheer thee, my bird—were it life's ebbing flutter,
This fondling bosom should woo it to stay.
But no—thou'rt dying—thy last task is over—
Farewell, sweet martyr to Love and to me!
The smiles thou hast waken'd by news from my lover,
Will now all be turn'd into weeping for thee.

While thus the scene of song (their last
For the sweet summer season) pass'd,
A few presiding nymphs, whose care
Watch'd over all, invisibly,
As do those guardian sprites of air,
Whose watch we feel, but cannot see,
Had from the circle—scarcely miss'd,
Ere they were sparkling there again—
Glided, like fairies, to assist
Their handmaids on the moonlight plain,
Where, hid by intercepting shade
From the stray glance of curious eyes,
A feast of fruits and wines was laid—
Soon to shine out, a glad surprise!

And now the moon, her ark of light
Steering through Heav'n, as though she bore
In safety through that deep of night,
Spirits of earth, the good, the bright,
To some remote immortal shore,
Had half-way sped her glorious way,
When, round reclin'd on hillocks green,
In groups, beneath that tranquil ray,
The Zeans at their feast were seen.
Gay was the picture—ev'ry maid
Whom late the lighted scene display'd,
Still in her fancy garb array'd;—
The Arabian pilgrim, smiling here
Beside the nymph of India's sky;
While there the Mainiote mountaineer
Whisper'd in young Minerva's ear,
And urchin Love stood laughing by.

Meantime the elders round the board,
By mirth and wit themselves made young,
High cups of juice Zacynthian pour'd,
And, while the flask went round, thus sung:—

SONG.

Up with the sparkling brimmer,
Up to the crystal rim;
Let not a moon-beam glimmer
'Twixt the flood and brim.
When hath the world set eyes on
Aught to match this light,
Which, o'er our cup's horizon,
Dawns in bumpers bright?

Truth in a deep well lieth—
So the wise aver:
But Truth the fact denieth—
Water suits not her.
No, her abode's in brimmers,
Like this mighty cup—
Waiting till we, good swimmers,
Dive to bring her up.

Thus circled round the song of glee,
And all was tuneful mirth the while,
Save on the cheeks of some, whose smile,
As fix'd they gaze upon the sea,
Turns into paleness suddenly!
What see they there? a bright blue light
That, like a meteor, gliding o'er
The distant wave, grows on the sight,
As though 'twere wing'd to Zea's shore.

To some, 'mong those who came to gaze,
It seem'd the night-light, far away,
Of some lone fisher, by the blaze
Of pine torch, luring on his prey;
While others, as, 'twixt awe and mirth,
They breath'd the bless'd Panaya's[1] name,
Vow'd that such light was not of earth,
But of that drear, ill-omen'd flame,
Which mariners see on sail or mast,
When Death is coming in the blast.
While marv'lling thus they stood, a maid,
Who sat apart, with downcast eye,
Nor yet had, like the rest, survey'd
That coming light which now was nigh,
Soon as it met her sight, with cry
Of pain-like joy, "'Tis he! 'tis he!"
Loud she exclaim'd, and, hurrying by
The assembled throng, rush'd tow'rds the sea.

At burst so wild, alarm'd, amaz'd,
All stood, like statues, mute, and gaz'd
Into each other's eyes, to seek
What meant such mood, in maid so meek?

Till now, the tale was known to few,
But now from lip to lip it flew:—
A youth, the flower of all the band,
Who late had left this sunny shore,
When last he kiss'd that maiden's hand,
Ling'ring, to kiss it o'er and o'er,
By his sad brow too plainly told
Th' ill-omen'd thought which cross'd him then,
That once those hands should lose their hold,
They ne'er would meet on earth again!
In vain his mistress, sad as he,
But with a heart from Self as free
As gen'rous woman's only is,
Veil'd her own fears to banish his:—
With frank rebuke, but still more vain,
Did a rough warrior, who stood by,
Call to his mind this martial strain,
His favourite once, ere Beauty's eye
Had taught his soldier-heart to sigh:—

[1] The name which the Greeks give to the Virgin Mary.

SONG.

March! nor heed those arms that hold thee,
Though so fondly close they come;
Closer still will they enfold thee,
When thou bring'st fresh laurels home.
Dost thou dote on woman's brow?
Dost thou live but in her breath?
March!—one hour of victory now
Wins thee woman's smile till death.

Oh what bliss, when war is over,
Beauty's long-miss'd smile to meet,
And, when wreaths our temples cover,
Lay them shining at her feet!
Who would not, that hour to reach,
Breathe out life's expiring sigh,—
Proud as waves that on the beach
Lay their war-crests down, and die?

There! I see thy soul is burning—
She herself, who clasps thee so,
Paints, ev'n now, thy glad returning,
And, while clasping, bids thee go.
One deep sigh, to passion given,
One last glowing tear and then—
March!—nor rest thy sword, till Heaven
Brings thee to those arms again.

Even then, e'er loth their hands could part,
A promise the youth gave, which bore
Some balm unto the maiden's heart,
That, soon as the fierce fight was o'er,
To home he'd speed, if safe and free—
Nay, ev'n if dying, still would come,
So the blest word of "Victory!"
Might be the last he'd breathe at home.
"By day," he cried, "thou'lt know my bark;
"But, should I come through midnight dark,
"A blue light on the prow shall tell
"That Greece hath won, and all is well!"

Fondly the maiden, every night,
Had stolen to seek that promis'd light;
Nor long her eyes had now been turn'd
From watching, when the signal burn'd.
Signal of joy—for her, for all—
Fleetly the boat now nears the land,
While voices, from the shore-edge, call
For tidings of the long-wish'd band.

Oh the blest hour, when those who've been
Through peril's paths by land or sea,

Lock'd in our arms again are seen
Smiling in glad security;
When heart to heart we fondly strain,
Questioning quickly o'er and o'er—
Then hold them off, to gaze again,
And ask, though answer'd oft before,
If they, *indeed*, are ours once more?

Such is the scene, so full of joy,
Which welcomes now this warrior-boy,
As fathers, sisters, friends all run
Bounding to meet him—all but one,
Who, slowest on his neck to fall,
Is yet the happiest of them all.

And now behold him, circled round
With beaming faces, at that board,
While cups, with laurel foliage crown'd,
Are to the coming warriors pour'd,—
Coming, as he, their herald, told,
With blades from vict'ry scarce yet cold,
With hearts untouch'd by Moslem steel,
And wounds that home's sweet breath will heal.

"Ere morn," said he,—and, while he spoke,
Turn'd to the east, where, clear, and pale,
The star of dawn already broke—
"We'll greet, on yonder wave, their sail!"
Then, wherefore part? all, all agree
To wait them here, beneath this bower;
And thus, while ev'n amidst their glee,
Each eye is turn'd to watch the sea,
With song they cheer the anxious hour.

SONG.

"'Tis the Vine! 'tis the Vine!" said the cup-loving boy,
As he saw it spring bright from the earth
And call'd the young Genii of Wit, Love, and Joy,
To witness and hallow its birth.
The fruit was full grown, like a ruby it flam'd
Till the sun-beam that kiss'd it look'd pale:
"Tis the Vine! 'tis the Vine!" ev'ry Spirit exclaim'd,
"Hail, hail to the Wine-tree, all hail!"

First, fleet as a bird, to the summons Wit flew,
While a light on the vine-leaves there broke,
In flashes so quick and so brilliant, all knew
'Twas the light from his lips as he spoke.
"Bright tree! let thy nectar but cheer me," he cried,
"And the fount of Wit never can fail:"
"'Tis the Vine! 'tis the Vine!" hills and valleys reply,
"Hail, hail to the Wine-tree, all hail!"

Next, Love, as he lean'd o'er the plant to admire
Each tendril and cluster it wore,
From his rosy mouth sent such a breath of desire,
As made the tree tremble all o'er.
Oh, never did flow'r of the earth, sea, or sky,
Such a soul-giving odour inhale:
"'Tis the Vine! 'tis the Vine!" all re-echo the cry,
"Hail, hail to the Wine-tree, all hail!"

Last, Joy, without whom even Love and Wit die,
Came to crown the bright hour with his ray;
And scarce had that mirth-waking tree met his eye,
When a laugh spoke what Joy could not say;—
A laugh of the heart, which was echoed around
Till, like music, it swell'd on the gale;
"'Tis the Vine! 'tis the Vine!" laughing myriads resound,
"Hail, hail to the Wine-tree, all hail!"

LEGENDARY BALLADS.

TO

THE MISS FEILDINGS,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED,

BY THEIR FAITHFUL FRIEND AND SERVANT,

THOMAS MOORE.

THE VOICE.

It came o'er her sleep, like a voice of those days,
When love, only love, was the light of her ways;
And, soft as in moments of bliss long ago,
It whisper'd her name from the garden below.

"Alas," sigh'd the maiden, "how fancy can cheat!
"The world once had lips that could whisper thus sweet;
"But cold now they slumber in yon fatal deep,
"Where, oh that beside them this heart too could sleep!"

She sunk on her pillow — but no, 'twas in vain
To chase the illusion, that Voice came again!
She flew to the casement — but, hush'd as the grave,
In moonlight lay slumbering woodland and wave.

"Oh sleep, come and shield me," in anguish she said,
"From that call of the buried, that cry of the Dead!"
And sleep came around her — but, starting, she woke,
For still from the garden that spirit Voice spoke!

"I come," she exclaim'd, "be thy home where it may,
"On earth or in heaven, that call I obey;"
Then forth through the moonlight, with heart beating fast
And loud as a death-watch, the pale maiden past.

Still round her the scene all in loneliness shone;
And still, in the distance, that Voice led her on;
But whither she wander'd, by wave or by shore,
None ever could tell, for she came back no more.

No, ne'er came she back, — but the watchman who stood,
That night in the tow'r which o'ershadows the flood,
Saw dimly, 'tis said, o'er the moon-lighted spray,
A youth on a steed bear the maiden away.

CUPID AND PSYCHE.

They told her that he, to whose vows she had listen'd
Through night's fleeting hours, was a Spirit unblest; —
Unholy the eyes, that beside her had glisten'd,
And evil the lips she in darkness had prest.

"When next in thy chamber the bridegroom reclineth,
"Bring near him thy lamp, when in slumber he lies;
"And there, as the light o'er his dark features shineth,
"Thou'lt see what a demon hath won all thy sighs!"

Too fond to believe them, yet doubting, yet fearing,
When calm lay the sleeper she stole with her light;
And saw — such a vision! — no image, appearing
To bards in their day-dreams, was ever so bright.

A youth, but just passing from childhood's sweet morning,
While round him still linger'd its innocent ray;

Though gleams, from beneath his shut eyelids gave warning
Of summer-noon lightnings that under them lay.

His brow had a grace more than mortal around it,
While, glossy as gold from a fairy-land mine,
His sunny hair hung, and the flowers that crown'd it
Seem'd fresh from the breeze of some garden divine.

Entranc'd stood the bride, on that miracle gazing,
What late was but love is idolatry now;
But, ah—in her tremor the fatal lamp raising—
A sparkle flew from it and dropp'd on his brow.

All's lost—with a start from his rosy sleep waking,
The Spirit flash'd o'er her his glances of fire;
Then, slow from the clasp of her snowy arms breaking,
Thus said, in a voice more of sorrow than ire:

"Farewell—what a dream thy suspicion hath broken!
"Thus ever Affection's fond vision is crost;
"Dissolv'd are her spells when a doubt is but spoken,
"And love, once distrusted, for ever is lost!"

HERO AND LEANDER.

"The night-wind is moaning with mournful sigh,
"There gleameth no moon in the misty sky,
"No star over Helle's sea;
"Yet, yet, there is shining one holy light,
"One love-kindled star through the deep of night,
"To lead me, sweet Hero, to thee!"

Thus saying, he plung'd in the foamy stream,
Still fixing his gaze on that distant beam
No eye but a lover's could see;
And still, as the surge swept over his head,
"To-night," he said tenderly, "living or dead,
"Sweet Hero, I'll rest with thee!"

But fiercer around him the wild waves speed;
Oh, Love! in that hour of thy votary's need,
Where, where could thy Spirit be?
He struggles—he sinks—while the hurricane's breath
Bears rudely away his last farewell in death—
"Sweet Hero, I die for thee!"

THE LEAF AND THE FOUNTAIN.

"Tell me, kind Seer, I pray thee,
"So may the stars obey thee,
"So may each airy
"Moon-elf and fairy
"Nightly their homage pay thee!
"Say, by what spell, above, below,
"In stars that wink or flow'rs that blow,
"I may discover,
"Ere night is over,
"Whether my love loves me or no,
"Whether my love loves me."

"Maiden, the dark tree nigh thee
"Hath charms no gold could buy thee;
"Its stem enchanted,
"By moon-elves planted,
"Will all thou seek'st supply thee.
"Climb to yon boughs that highest grow,
"Bring thence their fairest leaf below;
"And thou'lt discover,
"Ere night is over,
"Whether thy love loves thee or no,
"Whether thy love loves thee."

"See, up the dark tree going,
"With blossoms round me blowing,
"From thence, oh Father,
"This leaf I gather,
"Fairest that there is growing.
"Say, by what sign I now shall know
"If in this leaf lie bliss or woe;
"And thus discover,
"Ere night is over,
"Whether my love loves me or no,
"Whether my love loves me."

"Fly to yon fount that's welling,
"Where moonbeam ne'er had dwelling,
"Dip in its water
"That leaf, oh Daughter,
"And mark the tale 'tis telling;[1]
"Watch thou if pale or bright it grow,
"List thou, the while, that fountain's flow,
"And thou'lt discover
"Whether thy lover,
"Lov'd as he is, loves thee or no,
"Lov'd as he is, loves thee."

Forth flew the nymph, delighted,
To seek that fount benighted;

[1] The ancients had a mode of divination somewhat similar to this; and we find the Emperor Adrian, when he went to consult the Fountain of Castalia, plucking a bay-leaf and dipping it into the sacred water.

But, scarce a minute
The leaf lay in it,
When, lo, its bloom was blighted!
And as she ask'd, with voice of woe—
List'ning, the while, that fountain's flow—
"Shall I recover
"My truant lover?"
The fountain seem'd to answer, "No;"
The fountain answer'd, "No."

CEPHALUS AND PROCRIS.

A HUNTER once in that grove reclin'd,
To shun the noon's bright eye,
And oft he woo'd the wandering wind,
To cool his brow with its sigh.
While mute lay ev'n the wild bee's hum,
Nor breath could stir the aspen's hair,
His song was still "Sweet air, oh come!"
While Echo answer'd, "Come, sweet Air!"

But, hark, what sounds from the thicket rise!
What meaneth that rustling spray?
"'Tis the white-horn'd doe," the Hunter cries,
"I have sought since break of day."
Quick o'er the sunny glade he springs,
The arrow flies from his sounding bow,
"Hilliho—hilliho!" he gaily sings,
While Echo sighs forth "Hilliho!"

Alas, 'twas not the white-horned doe
He saw in the rustling grove,
But the bridal veil, as pure as snow,
Of his own young wedded love.
And, ah, too sure that arrow sped,
For pale at his feet he sees her lie;—
"I die, I die," was all she said,
While Echo murmur'd, "I die, I die!"

YOUTH AND AGE.[1]

"TELL me, what's Love?" said Youth, one day,
To drooping Age, who crost his way.—
"It is a sunny hour of play,
"For which repentance dear doth pay;
"Repentance! Repentance!
"And this is Love, as wise men say."

"Tell me, what's Love?" said Youth once more,
Fearful, yet fond, of Age's lore.—
"Soft as a passing summer's wind:
"Would'st know the blight it leaves behind?
"Repentance! Repentance!
"And this is Love—when love is o'er."

"Tell me, what's Love?" said Youth again,
Trusting the bliss, but not the pain.
"Sweet as a May tree's scented air—
"Mark ye what bitter fruit 'twill bear,
"Repentance! Repentance!
"This, this is Love—sweet Youth, beware."

Just then, young Love himself came by,
And cast on Youth a smiling eye;
Who could resist that glance's ray?
In vain did Age his warning say,
"Repentance! Repentance!"
Youth laughing went with Love away.

THE DYING WARRIOR.

A WOUNDED Chieftain, lying
By the Danube's leafy side,
Thus faintly said, in dying,
"Oh! bear, thou foaming tide,
"This gift to my lady-bride."

'Twas then, in life's last quiver,
He flung the scarf he wore
Into the foaming river,
Which, ah too quickly, bore
That pledge of one no more!

With fond impatience burning,
The Chieftain's lady stood,
To watch her love returning
In triumph down the flood,
From that day's field of blood.

But, field, alas, ill-fated!
The lady saw, instead
Of the bark whose speed she waited,
Her hero's scarf, all red
With the drops his heart had shed.

One shriek—and all was over—
Her life-pulse ceas'd to beat;

[1] The air, to which I have adapted these words, was composed by Mrs. Arkwright to some old verses, "Tell me what's love, kind shepherd, pray?" and it has been my object to retain as much of the structure and phraseology of the original words as possible.

The gloomy waves now cover
That bridal-flower so sweet,
And the scarf is her winding sheet!

THE MAGIC MIRROR.

"COME, if thy magic Glass have pow'r
"To call up forms we sigh to see;
"Show me my love, in that rosy bow'r,
"Where last she pledg'd her truth to me."

The Wizard show'd him his Lady bright,
Where lone and pale in her bow'r she lay;
"True-hearted maid," said the happy Knight,
"She's thinking of one, who is far away."

But, lo! a page, with looks of joy,
Brings tidings to the Lady's ear;
"'Tis," said the Knight, "the same bright boy,
"Who used to guide me to my dear."

The Lady now, from her fav'rite tree,
Hath, smiling, pluck'd a rosy flow'r;
"Such," he exclaim'd, "was the gift that she
"Each morning sent me from that bow'r!"

She gives her page the blooming rose,
With looks that say, "Like lightning, fly!"
"Thus," thought the Knight, "she soothes her woes,
"By fancying, still, her true-love nigh."

But the page returns, and—oh, what a sight,
For trusting lover's eyes to see!—
Leads to that bow'r another Knight,
As young and, alas, as lov'd as he!

"Such," quoth the Youth, "is Woman's love!"
Then, darting forth, with furious bound,
Dash'd at the Mirror his iron glove,
And strew'd it all in fragments round.

MORAL.

Such ills would never have come to pass,
Had he ne'er sought that fatal view;
The Wizard would still have kept his Glass,
And the Knight still thought his Lady true.

THE PILGRIM.

STILL thus, when twilight gleam'd,
Far off his Castle seem'd,
Trac'd on the sky;
And still, as fancy bore him
To those dim tow'rs before him,
He gaz'd, with wishful eye,
And thought his home was nigh.

"Hall of my Sires!" he said,
"How long, with weary tread,
"Must I toil on?
"Each eve, as thus I wander,
"Thy tow'rs seem rising yonder,
"But, scarce hath daylight shone,
"When, like a dream, thou'rt gone!"

So went the Pilgrim still,
Down dale and over hill,
Day after day;
That glimpse of home, so cheering,
At twilight still appearing,
But still, with morning's ray,
Melting, like mist, away!

Where rests the Pilgrim now?
Here, by this cypress bough,
Clos'd his career;
That dream, of Fancy's weaving,
No more his steps deceiving,
Alike past hope and fear,
The Pilgrim's home is here.

THE HIGH-BORN LADYE.

IN vain all the Knights of the Underwald woo'd her,
Though brightest of maidens, the proudest was she;
Brave chieftains they sought, and young minstrels they sued her,
But worthy were none of the high-born Ladye.

"Whomsoever I wed," said this maid, so excelling,
"That Knight must the conqu'ror of conquerors be;
"He must place me in halls fit for monarchs to dwell in;—
"None else shall be Lord of the high-born Ladye!"

Thus spoke the proud damsel, with scorn looking round her
On Knights and on Nobles of highest degree;
Who humbly and hopelessly left as they found her,
And worshipp'd at distance the high-born Ladye.

At length came a Knight, from a far land to woo her,
With plumes on his helm like the foam of the sea;
His vizor was down—but, with voice that thrill'd through her,
He whisper'd his vows to the high-born Ladye.

"Proud maiden! I come with high spousals to grace thee,
"In me the great conqu'ror of conquerors see;
"Enthron'd in a hall fit for monarchs I'll place thee,
"And mine thou'rt for ever, thou high-born Ladye!"

The maiden she smil'd, and in jewels array'd her,
Of thrones and tiaras already dreamt she;
And proud was the step, as her bridegroom convey'd her
In pomp to his home, of that high-born Ladye.

"But whither," she, starting, exclaims, "have you led me?
"Here's nought but a tomb and a dark cypress tree;
"Is *this* the bright palace in which thou wouldst wed me?"
With scorn in her glance, said the high-born Ladye.

"'Tis the home," he replied, "of earth's loftiest creatures"—
Then lifted his helm for the fair one to see;
But she sunk on the ground—'twas a skeleton's features,
And Death was the Lord of the high-born Ladye!

THE INDIAN BOAT.

'Twas midnight dark,
The seaman's bark,
Swift o'er the waters bore him,
When, through the night,
He spied a light
Shoot o'er the wave before him.

"A sail! a sail!" he cries;
"She comes from the Indian shore,
"And to-night shall be our prize,
"With her freight of golden ore:
"Sail on! sail on!"
When morning shone
He saw the gold still clearer;
But, though so fast
The waves he pass'd,
That boat seem'd never the nearer.

Bright daylight came,
And still the same
Rich bark before him floated;
While on the prize
His wishful eyes
Like any young lover's doated:
"More sail! more sail!" he cries,
While the waves o'ertop the mast;
And his bounding galley flies,
Like an arrow before the blast.
Thus on, and on,
Till day was gone,
And the moon through heav'n did hie her,
He swept the main,
But all in vain,
That boat seem'd never the nigher.

And many a day
To night gave way,
And many a morn succeeded:
While still his flight,
Through day and night,
That restless mariner speeded.
Who knows—who knows what seas
He is now careering o'er?
Behind, the eternal breeze,
And that mocking bark, before!
For, oh, till sky
And earth shall die,
And their death leave none to rue it,
That boat must flee
O'er the boundless sea,
And that ship in vain pursue it.

THE STRANGER.

Come list, while I tell of the heart-wounded Stranger
Who sleeps her last slumber in this haunted ground;
Where often, at midnight, the lonely wood-ranger
Hears soft fairy music re-echo around.

None e'er knew the name of that heart-stricken lady,
Her language, though sweet, none could e'er understand;
But her features so sunn'd, and her eyelash so shady,
Bespoke her a child of some far Eastern land.

'Twas one summer night, when the village lay sleeping,
A soft strain of melody came o'er our ears;
So sweet, but so mournful, half song and half weeping,
Like music that Sorrow had steep'd in her tears.

We thought 'twas an anthem some angel had sung us;—
But, soon as the day-beams had gush'd from on high,
With wonder we saw this bright stranger among us,
All lovely and lone, as if stray'd from the sky.

Nor long did her life for this sphere seem intended,
For pale was her cheek, with that spirit-like hue,
Which comes when the day of this world is nigh ended,
And light from another already shines through.

Then her eyes, when she sung—oh, but once to have seen them—
Left thoughts in the soul that can never depart;
While her looks and her voice made a language between them,
That spoke more than holiest words to the heart.

But she pass'd like a day-dream, no skill could restore her—
Whate'er was her sorrow, its ruin came fast;
She died with the same spell of mystery o'er her,
That song of past days on her lips to the last.

Nor ev'n in the grave is her sad heart reposing—
Still hovers the spirit of grief round her tomb;
For oft, when the shadows of midnight are closing,
The same strain of music is heard through the gloom.

A MELOLOGUE UPON NATIONAL MUSIC.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THESE verses were written for a Benefit at the Dublin Theatre, and were spoken by Miss Smith, with a degree of success, which they owed solely to her admirable manner of reciting them. I wrote them in haste; and it very rarely happens that poetry, which has cost but little labour to the writer, is productive of any great pleasure to the reader. Under this impression, I certainly should not have published them if they had not found their way into some of the newspapers, with such an addition of errors to their own original stock, that I thought it but fair to limit their responsibility to those faults alone which really belong to them.

With respect to the title which I have invented for this Poem, I feel even more than the scruples of the Emperor Tiberius, when he humbly asked pardon of the Roman Senate for using "the outlandish term, *monopoly*." But the truth is, having written the Poem with the sole view of serving a Benefit, I thought that an unintelligible word of this kind would not be without its attraction for the multitude, with whom, "If 'tis not sense, at least 'tis Greek." To some of my readers, however, it may not be superfluous to say, that by "Melologue," I mean that mixture of recitation and music, which is frequently adopted in the performance of Collins's Ode on the Passions, and of which the most striking example I can remember is the prophetic speech of Joad in the Athalie of Racine.

T. M.

MELOLOGUE.

A short Strain of Music from the Orchestra.

There breathes a language, known and felt
Far as the pure air spreads its living zone;
Wherever rage can rouse, or pity melt,
That language of the soul is felt and known.
From those meridian plains,
Where oft, of old, on some high tow'r,
The soft Peruvian pour'd his midnight strains,
And call'd his distant love with such sweet pow'r,
That, when she heard the lonely lay,
Not worlds could keep her from his arms away.[1]
To the bleak climes of polar night,
Where blithe, beneath a sunless sky,
The Lapland lover bids his rein-deer fly,
And sings along the length'ning waste of snow,
Gaily as if the blessed light
Of vernal Phœbus burn'd upon his brow;
Oh Music! thy celestial claim
Is still resistless, still the same;
And, faithful as the mighty sea
To the pale star that o'er its realm presides,
The spell-bound tides
Of human passion rise and fall for thee!

Greek Air.

List! 'tis a Grecian maid that sings,
While, from Ilissus' silv'ry springs,
She draws the cool lymph in her graceful urn;
And by her side, in Music's charm dissolving,
Some patriot youth, the glorious past revolving,
Dreams of bright days that never can return;
When Athens nurs'd her olive bough,
With hands by tyrant pow'r unchain'd;
And braided for the muse's brow
A wreath by tyrant touch unstain'd.
When heroes trod each classic field
Where coward feet now faintly falter;
When ev'ry arm was Freedom's shield,
And ev'ry heart was Freedom's altar!

Flourish of Trumpets.

Hark, 'tis the sound that charms
The war-steed's wak'ning ears!—
Oh! many a mother folds her arms
Round her boy-soldier when that call she hears;
And, though her fond heart sink with fears,
Is proud to feel his young pulse bound
With valour's fever at the sound.
See, from his native hills afar
The rude Helvetian flies to war;
Careless for what, for whom he fights,
For slave or despot, wrongs or rights;
A conqueror oft—a hero never—
Yet lavish of his life-blood still,
As if 'twere like his mountain rill,
And gush'd for ever!

Yes, Music, here, even here,
Amid this thoughtless, vague career,
Thy soul-felt charm asserts its wondrous pow'r.—
There's a wild air which oft, among the rocks
Of his own loved land, at ev'ning hour,
Is heard, when shepherds homeward pipe their flocks,
Whose every note hath power to thrill his mind
With tend'rest thoughts; to bring around his knees
The rosy children whom he left behind,
And fill each little angel eye
With speaking tears, that ask him why
He wander'd from his hut for scenes like these.
Vain, vain is then the trumpet's brazen roar;
Sweet notes of home, of love, are all he hears;
And the stern eyes, that look'd for blood before,
Now melting, mournful, lose themselves in tears.

Swiss Air.—"Ranz des Vaches."

But, wake the trumpet's blast again,
And rouse the ranks of warrior-men!
Oh War, when Truth thy arm employs,
And Freedom's spirit guides the labouring storm,
'Tis then thy vengeance takes a hallow'd form,
And, like Heaven's light'ning, sacredly destroys.
Nor, Music, through thy breathing sphere,
Lives there a sound more grateful to the ear
Of Him who made all harmony,
Than the bless'd sound of fetters breaking,
And the first hymn that man, awaking
From Slavery's slumber, breathes to Liberty.

Spanish Chorus.

Hark! from Spain, indignant Spain,
Bursts the bold, enthusiast strain,
Like morning's music on the air;
And seems, in every note, to swear
By Saragossa's ruin'd streets,
By brave Gerona's deathful story,

[1] "A certain Spaniard, one night late, met an Indian woman in the streets of Cozco, and would have taken her to his home, but she cried out, 'For God's sake, Sir, let me go; for that pipe, which you hear in yonder tower, calls me with great passion, and I cannot refuse the summons; for love constrains me to go, that I may be his wife, and he my husband.'"—*Garcilasso de la Véga*, in Sir Paul Rycaut's translation.

That, while *one* Spaniard's life-blood beats,
That blood shall stain the conqu'ror's glory.

SPANISH AIR.—"YA DESPERTO."

But ah! if vain the patriot's zeal,
If neither valour's force nor wisdom's light
Can break or melt that blood-cemented seal,
Which shuts so close the book of Europe's right—
What song shall then in sadness tell
Of broken pride, of prospects shaded,
Of buried hopes, remember'd well,
Of ardour quench'd, and honour faded?
What muse shall mourn the breathless brave,
In sweetest dirge at Memory's shrine?
What harp shall sigh o'er Freedom's grave?
Oh Erin, Thine!

SET OF GLEES.

MUSIC BY MOORE.

THE MEETING OF THE SHIPS.

WHEN o'er the silent seas alone,
For days and nights we've cheerless gone,
Oh they who've felt it know how sweet,
Some sunny morn a sail to meet.

Sparkling at once is ev'ry eye,
"Ship ahoy! ship ahoy!" our joyful cry;
While answering back the sounds we hear
"Ship ahoy! ship ahoy! what cheer? what cheer?"

Then sails are back'd, we nearer come,
Kind words are said of friends and home;
And soon, too soon, we part with pain,
To sail o'er silent seas again.

HIP, HIP, HURRA!

COME, fill round a bumper, fill up to the brim,
He who shrinks from a bumper I pledge not to him;
"Here's the girl that each loves, be her eye of what hue,
"Or lustre, it may, so her heart is but true."
Charge! (drinks) hip, hip, hurra, hurra!

Come, charge high again, boys, nor let the full wine
Leave a space in the brimmer, where daylight may shine;
"Here's the friends of our youth—though of some we're bereft,
"May the links that are lost but endear what are left!"
Charge! (drinks) hip, hip, hurra, hurra!

Once more fill a bumper—ne'er talk of the hour;
On hearts thus united old Time has no pow'r.
"May our lives, tho', alas! like the wine of to-night,
"They must soon have an end, to the last flow as bright."
Charge! (drinks) hip, hip, hurra, hurra!

Quick, quick, now, I'll give you, since Time's glass will run
Ev'n faster than ours doth, three bumpers in one;
"Here's the poet who sings—here's the warrior who fights—
"Here's the statesman who speaks, in the cause of men's rights!"
Charge! (drinks) hip, hip, hurra, hurra!

Come, once more, a bumper!—then drink as you please,
Tho', *who* could fill half-way to toast such as these?
"Here's our next joyous meeting—and oh when we meet,
"May our wine be as bright and our union as sweet!"
Charge! (drinks) hip, hip, hurra, hurra!

HUSH, HUSH!

"HUSH, hush!"—how well
That sweet word sounds,

When Love, the little sentinel,
Walks his night-rounds;
Then, if a foot but dare
One rose-leaf crush,
Myriads of voices in the air
Whisper, "Hush, hush!"

"Hark, hark, 'tis he!"
The night-elves cry,
And hush their fairy harmony,
While he steals by;
But if his silv'ry feet
One dew-drop brush,
Voices are heard in chorus sweet,
Whisp'ring, "Hush, hush!"

THE PARTING BEFORE THE BATTLE.

HE.

On to the field, our doom is seal'd,
To conquer or be slaves:
This sun shall see our nation free,
Or set upon our graves.

SHE.

Farewell, oh farewell, my love,
May Heav'n thy guardian be,
And send bright angels from above
To bring thee back to me.

HE.

On to the field, the battle-field,
Where Freedom's standard waves,
This sun shall see our tyrant yield,
Or shine upon our graves.

THE WATCHMAN.

A TRIO.

WATCHMAN.

Past twelve o'clock—past twelve.

Good night, good night, my dearest—
How fast the moments fly!
'Tis time to part, thou hearest
That hateful watchman's cry.

WATCHMAN.

Past one o'clock—past one.

Yet stay a moment longer—
Alas! why is it so,
The wish to stay grows stronger,
The more 'tis time to go?

WATCHMAN.

Past two o'clock—past two.

Now wrap thy cloak about thee—
The hours must sure go wrong,
For when they're pass'd without thee,
They're, oh, ten times as long.

WATCHMAN.

Past three o'clock—past three.

Again that dreadful warning!
Had ever time such flight?
And see the sky, 'tis morning—
So now, *indeed*, good night.

WATCHMAN.

Past three o'clock—past three.

Good night, good night.

SAY, WHAT SHALL WE DANCE?

Say, what shall we dance?
Shall we bound along the moonlight plain,
To music of Italy, Greece, or Spain?
Say, what shall we dance?
Shall we, like those who rove
Through bright Grenada's grove,
To the light Bolero's measures move?
Or choose the Guaracia's languishing lay,
And thus to its sound die away?

Strike the gay chords,
Let us hear each strain from ev'ry shore
That music haunts, or young feet wander o'er.
Hark! 'tis the light march, to whose measured time,
The Polish lady, by her lover led,
Delights through gay saloons with step untired to tread,
Or sweeter still, through moonlight walks,
Whose shadows serve to hide
The blush that's rais'd by him who talks
Of love the while by her side;

Then comes the smooth waltz, to whose floating sound
Like dreams we go gliding around,
Say, which shall we dance? which shall we dance?

THE EVENING GUN.

Rememb'rest thou that setting sun,
The last I saw with thee,
When loud we heard the ev'ning gun
Peal o'er the twilight sea?
Boom!—the sounds appear'd to sweep
Far o'er the verge of day,
Till, into realms beyond the deep,
They seem'd to die away.

Oft, when the toils of day are done,
In pensive dreams of thee,
I sit to hear that ev'ning gun,
Peal o'er the stormy sea.
Boom!—and while, o'er billows curl'd,
The distant sounds decay,
I weep and wish, from this rough world,
Like them, to die away.

BALLADS, SONGS, MISCELLANEOUS POEMS,

ETC.

TO-DAY, DEAREST! IS OURS.

To-day, dearest! is ours;
Why should Love carelessly lose it?
This life shines or lowers
Just as we, weak mortals, use it.
'Tis time enough, when its flow'rs decay,
To think of the thorns of Sorrow;
And Joy, if left on the stem to-day,
May wither before to-morrow.

Then why, dearest! so long
Let the sweet moments fly over?
Though now, blooming and young,
Thou hast me devoutly thy lover:
Yet Time from both, in his silent lapse,
Some treasure may steal or borrow;
Thy charms may be less in bloom, perhaps,
Or I less in love to-morrow.

WHEN ON THE LIP THE SIGH DELAYS.

When on the lip the sigh delays,
As if 'twould linger there for ever;
When eyes would give the world to gaze,
Yet still look down, and venture never;
When, though with fairest nymphs we rove,
There's one we dream of more than any—
If all this is not real love,
'Tis something wond'rous like it, Fanny!

To think and ponder, when apart,
On all we've got to say at meeting;
And yet when near, with heart to heart,
Sit mute, and listen to their beating:
To see but one bright object move,
The only moon, where stars are many—
If all this is not downright love,
I prithee say what *is*, my Fanny!

When Hope foretells the brightest, best,
Though Reason on the darkest reckons;
When Passion drives us to the west,
Though Prudence to the eastward beckons;
When all turns round, below, above,
And our own heads the most of any—
If this is not stark, staring love,
Then you and I are sages, Fanny.

HERE, TAKE MY HEART.

Here, take my heart—'twill be safe in thy keeping,
While I go wand'ring o'er land and o'er sea;
Smiling or sorrowing, waking or sleeping,
What need I care, so my heart is with thee?

If, in the race we are destin'd to run, love,
They who have light hearts the happiest be,
Then, happier still must be they who have none, love,
And that will be *my* case when mine is with thee.

It matters not where I may now be a rover,
I care not how many bright eyes I may see;
Should Venus herself come and ask me to love her,
I'd tell her I couldn't—my heart is with thee.

And there let it lie, growing fonder and fonder—
For, even should Fortune turn truant to me,
Why, let her go—I've a treasure beyond her,
As long as my heart's out at int'rest with thee!

OH, CALL IT BY SOME BETTER NAME.

Oh, call it by some better name,
For Friendship sounds too cold,
While Love is now a worldly flame,
Whose shrine must be of gold;
And Passion, like the sun at noon,
That burns o'er all he sees,
Awhile as warm, will set as soon—
Then, call it none of these.

Imagine something purer far,
More free from stain of clay
Than Friendship, Love, or Passion are,
Yet human still as they:
And if thy lip, for love like this,
No mortal word can frame,
Go, ask of angels what it is,
And call it by that name!

POOR WOUNDED HEART.

Poor wounded heart, farewell!
Thy hour of rest is come;
Thou soon wilt reach thy home,
Poor wounded heart, farewell!
The pain thou'lt feel in breaking
Less bitter far will be,
Than that long, deadly aching,
This life has been to thee.

There—broken heart, farewell!
The pang is o'er—
The parting pang is o'er;
Thou now wilt bleed no more,
Poor broken heart, farewell!
No rest for thee but dying—
Like waves, whose strife is past,
On death's cold shore thus lying,
Thou sleep'st in peace at last—
Poor broken heart, farewell!

THE EAST INDIAN.

Come, May, with all thy flowers,
Thy sweetly-scented thorn,
Thy cooling ev'ning showers,
Thy fragrant breath at morn:
When May-flies haunt the willow,
When May-buds tempt the bee,
Then o'er the shining billow
My love will come to me.

From Eastern Isles she's winging
Through wat'ry wilds her way,
And on her cheek is bringing
The bright sun's orient ray:
Oh, come and court her hither,
Ye breezes mild and warm—
One winter's gale would wither
So soft, so pure a form.

The fields where she was straying
Are blest with endless light,
With zephyrs always playing
Through gardens always bright.
Then now, sweet May! be sweeter
Than e'er thou'st been before;
Let sighs from roses meet her
When she comes near our shore.

POOR BROKEN FLOWER.

Poor broken flow'r! what art can now recover thee?
Torn from the stem that fed thy rosy breath—

In vain the sun-beams seek
To warm that faded cheek;
The dews of heav'n, that once like balm fell over thee,
Now are but tears, to weep thy early death.

So droops the maid whose lover hath forsaken her,—
Thrown from his arms, as lone and lost as thou;
In vain the smiles of all
Like sun-beams round her fall;
The only smile that could from death awaken her,
That smile, alas! is gone to others now.

THE PRETTY ROSE TREE.

Being weary of love,
I flew to the grove,
And chose me a tree of the fairest;
Saying, "Pretty Rose-tree,
"Thou my mistress shalt be,
"And I'll worship each bud thou bearest.
"For the hearts of this world are hollow,
"And fickle the smiles we follow;
"And 'tis sweet, when all
"Their witch'ries pall,
"To have a pure love to fly to:
"So, my pretty Rose-tree,
"Thou my mistress shalt be,
"And the only one now I shall sigh to."

When the beautiful hue
Of thy cheek through the dew
Of morning is bashfully peeping,
"Sweet tears," I shall say
(As I brush them away),
"At least there's no art in this weeping."
Although thou should'st die to-morrow,
'Twill not be from pain or sorrow;
And the thorns of thy stem
Are not like them
With which men wound each other:
So my pretty Rose-tree,
Thou my mistress shalt be,
And I'll ne'er again sigh to another.

SHINE OUT, STARS!

Shine out, Stars! let Heav'n assemble
Round us ev'ry festal ray,
Lights that move not, lights that tremble,
All to grace this Eve of May.

Let the flow'r-beds all lie waking,
And the odours shut up there,
From their downy prisons breaking,
Fly abroad through sea and air.

And would Love, too, bring his sweetness,
With our other joys to weave,
Oh what glory, what completeness,
Then would crown this bright May Eve!
Shine out, Stars! let night assemble
Round us every festal ray,
Lights that move not, lights that tremble,
To adorn this Eve of May.

THE YOUNG MULETEERS OF GRENADA.

Oh, the joys of our ev'ning posada,
Where, resting at close of day,
We, young Muleteers of Grenada,
Sit and sing the sunshine away;
So merry, that even the slumbers,
That round us hung, seem gone;
Till the lute's soft drowsy numbers
Again beguile them on.
Oh the joys, &c.

Then as each to his loved sultana
In sleep still breathes the sigh,
The name of some black-eyed Tirana
Escapes our lips as we lie.
Till, with morning's rosy twinkle,
Again we're up and gone—
While the mule-bell's drowsy tinkle
Beguiles the rough way on.
Oh the joys of our merry posada,
Where, resting at close of day,
We, young Muleteers of Grenada,
Thus sing the gay moments away.

TELL HER, OH, TELL HER.

Tell her, oh, tell her, the lute she left lying
Beneath the green arbour, is still lying there;
And breezes, like lovers, around it are sighing,
But not a soft whisper replies to their pray'r.

Tell her, oh, tell her, the tree that, in going,
Beside the green arbour she playfully set,
As lovely as ever is blushing and blowing,
And not a bright leaflet has fall'n from it yet.

So while away from that arbour forsaken,
The maiden is wandering, still let her be
As true as the lute, that no sighing can waken,
And blooming for ever, unchang'd as the tree!

NIGHTS OF MUSIC.

Nights of music, nights of loving,
Lost too soon, remember'd long,
When we went by moonlight roving,
Hearts all love and lips all song.
When this faithful lute recorded
All my spirit felt to thee;
And that smile the song rewarded —
Worth whole years of fame to me!

Nights of song, and nights of splendour,
Fill'd with joys too sweet to last —
Joys that, like the star-light, tender,
While they shone, no shadow cast.
Though all other happy hours
From my fading mem'ry fly,
Of that star-light, of those bowers,
Not a beam, a leaf shall die!

OUR FIRST YOUNG LOVE.

Our first young love resembles
That short but brilliant ray,
Which smiles, and weeps, and trembles
Through April's earliest day.
And not all life before us,
Howe'er its lights may play,
Can shed a lustre o'er us
Like that first April ray.

Our summer sun may squander
A blaze serener, grander;
Our autumn beam
May, like a dream
Of heav'n, die calm away;
But, no — let life before us
Bring all the light it may,
'Twill ne'er shed lustre o'er us
Like that first youthful ray.

BLACK AND BLUE EYES.

The brilliant black eye
May in triumph let fly
All its darts without caring who feels 'em;
But the soft eye of blue,
Though it scatter wounds too,
Is much better pleas'd when it heals 'em —
Dear Fanny!
But the soft eye of blue,
Though it scatter wounds too,
Is much better pleas'd when it heals 'em.

The black eye may say,
"Come and worship my ray —
"By adoring, perhaps, you may move me!"
But the blue eye, half hid,
Says, from under its lid,
"I love, and am yours, if you love me!"
Yes, Fanny!
The blue eye, half hid,
Says, from under its lid,
"I love, and am yours, if you love me!"

Come tell me, then, why,
In that lovely blue eye,
Not a charm of its tint I discover;
Oh why should you wear
The only blue pair
That ever said "No" to a lover?
Dear Fanny!
Oh, why should you wear
The only blue pair
That ever said "No" to a lover?

DEAR FANNY.

"She has beauty, but still you must keep your heart cool;
"She has wit, but you mustn't be caught so:"
Thus Reason advises, but Reason's a fool,
And 'tis not the first time I have thought so,
Dear Fanny,
'Tis not the first time I have thought so.

"She is lovely; then love her, nor let the bliss fly;
"'Tis the charm of youth's vanishing season:"
Thus Love has advis'd me, and who will deny
That Love reasons much better than Reason,
Dear Fanny?
Love reasons much better than Reason.

FROM LIFE WITHOUT FREEDOM.

From life without freedom, say, who would not fly?
For one day of freedom, oh! who would not die?
Hark!—hark! 'tis the trumpet! the call of the brave,
The death-song of tyrants, the dirge of the slave:
Our country lies bleeding— haste, haste to her aid;
One arm that defends is worth hosts that invade.

In death's kindly bosom our last hope remains—
The dead fear no tyrants, the grave has no chains.
On, on to the combat; the heroes that bleed
For virtue and mankind are heroes indeed.
And oh, ev'n if Freedom from *this* world be driven,
Despair not—at least we shall find her in heaven.

HERE'S THE BOWER.

Here's the bower she lov'd so much,
And the tree she planted;
Here's the harp she used to touch—
Oh, how that touch enchanted!
Roses now unheeded sigh;
Where's the hand to wreathe them?
Songs around neglected lie;
Where's the lip to breathe them?
Here's the bower, &c.

Spring may bloom, but she we lov'd
Ne'er shall feel its sweetness;
Time, that once so fleetly mov'd,
Now hath lost its fleetness.
Years were days, when here she stray'd,
Days were moments near her;
Heav'n ne'er form'd a brighter maid,
Nor Pity wept a dearer!
Here's the bower, &c.

I SEE THE MOON RISE CLEAR.

A FINLAND LOVE SONG.

I saw the moon rise clear
O'er hills and vales of snow,
Nor told my fleet rein-deer
The track I wish'd to go.
Yet quick he bounded forth;
For well my rein-deer knew
I've but one path on earth—
The path which leads to you.

The gloom that winter cast
How soon the heart forgets,
When Summer brings, at last,
Her sun that never sets!
So dawn'd my love for you;
So, fix'd through joy and pain,
Than summer sun more true,
'Twill never set again.

LOVE AND THE SUN-DIAL.

Young Love found a Dial once, in a dark shade,
Where man ne'er had wander'd nor sunbeam play'd;
"Why thus in darkness lie," whisper'd young Love;
"Thou, whose gay hours in sunshine should move?"
"I ne'er," said the Dial, "have seen the warm sun,
"So noonday and midnight to me, Love, are one."

Then Love took the Dial away from the shade,
And placed her where Heav'n's beam warmly play'd.
There she reclin'd, beneath Love's gazing eye,
While, mark'd all with sunshine, her hours flew by.
"Oh, how," said the Dial, "can any fair maid,
"That's born to be shone upon, rest in the shade?"

But night now comes on, and the sunbeam's o'er,
And Love stops to gaze on the Dial no more.
Alone and neglected, while bleak rain and winds
Are storming around her, with sorrow she finds
That Love had but number'd a few sunny hours,—
Then left the remainder to darkness and showers!

LOVE AND TIME.

'Tis said—but whether true or not
Let bards declare who've seen 'em—
That Love and Time have only got
One pair of wings between 'em.
In courtship's first delicious hour,
The boy full oft can spare 'em;
So, loit'ring in his lady's bower,
He lets the grey-beard wear 'em.
Then is Time's hour of play;
Oh, how he flies, flies away!

But short the moments, short as bright,
When he the wings can borrow;
If Time to-day has had his flight,
Love takes his turn to-morrow.
Ah! Time and Love, your change is then
The saddest and most trying,
When one begins to limp again,
And t'other takes to flying.
Then is Love's hour to stray;
Oh, how he flies, flies away!

But there's a nymph, whose chains I feel,
And bless the silken fetter,
Who knows, the dear one, how to deal
With Love and Time much better.
So well she checks their wanderings,
So peacefully she pairs 'em,
That Love with her ne'er thinks of wings,
And Time for ever wears 'em.
This is Time's holiday;
Oh, how he flies, flies away!

LOVE'S LIGHT SUMMER-CLOUD.

Pain and sorrow shall vanish before us—
Youth may wither, but feeling will last;
All the shadow that e'er shall fall o'er us,
Love's light summer-cloud only shall cast.
Oh, if to love thee more
Each hour I number o'er
If this a passion be
Worthy of thee,
Then be happy, for thus I adore thee.
Charms may wither, but feeling shall last:
All the shadow that e'er shall fall o'er thee,
Love's light summer-cloud sweetly shall cast.

Rest, dear bosom, no sorrows shall pain thee,
Sighs of pleasure alone shalt thou steal;
Beam, bright eyelid, no weeping shall stain thee,
Tears of rapture alone shalt thou feel.
Oh, if there be a charm
In love, to banish harm —
If pleasure's truest spell
Be to love well,
Then be happy, for thus I adore thee.
Charms may wither, but feeling shall last:
All the shadow that e'er shall fall o'er thee,
Love's light summer-cloud sweetly shall cast.

LOVE, WAND'RING THROUGH THE GOLDEN MAZE.

Love, wand'ring through the golden maze
Of my beloved's hair,
Trac'd every lock with fond delays,
And, doting, linger'd there.
And soon he found 'twere vain to fly;
His heart was close confin'd,
For, every ringlet was a tie —
A chain by beauty twin'd.

MERRILY EVERY BOSOM BOUNDETH.

THE TYROLESE SONG OF LIBERTY.

Merrily every bosom boundeth,
Merrily, oh!
Where the song of Freedom soundeth,
Merrily, oh!
There the warrior's arms
Shed more splendour;
There the maiden's charms
Shine more tender;
Ev'ry joy the land surroundeth,
Merrily, oh! merrily, oh!

Wearily every bosom pineth,
Wearily, oh!
Where the bond of slavery twineth
Wearily, oh!
There the warrior's dart
Hath no fleetness;
There the maiden's heart
Hath no sweetness —
Ev'ry flow'r of life declineth,
Wearily, oh! wearily, oh!

Cheerily then from hill and valley,
Cheerily, oh!
Like your native fountains sally,
Cheerily, oh!
If a glorious death,
Won by bravery,
Sweeter be than breath
Sigh'd in slavery,
Round the flag of Freedom rally,
Cheerily, oh! cheerily, oh!

REMEMBER THE TIME.

THE CASTILIAN MAID.

Remember the time, in La Mancha's shades,
When our moments so blissfully flew;
When you call'd me the flower of Castilian maids,
And I blush'd to be call'd so by you;
When I taught you to warble the gay seguadille,
And to dance to the light castanet;
Oh, never, dear youth, let you roam where you will,
The delight of those moments forget.

They tell me, you lovers from Erin's green isle,
Every hour a new passion can feel;
And that soon, in the light of some lovelier smile,
You'll forget the poor maid of Castile.
But they know not how brave in the battle you are,
Or they never could think you would rove;
For 'tis always the spirit most gallant in war
That is fondest and truest in love.

OH, SOON RETURN.

Our white sail caught the ev'ning ray,
The wave beneath us seem'd to burn,
When all the weeping maid could say
Was, "Oh, soon return!"
Through many a clime our ship was driven,
O'er many a billow rudely thrown;
Now chill'd beneath a northern heaven,
Now sunn'd in summer's zone:
And still, where'er we bent our way,
When evening bid the west wave burn,
I fancied still I heard her say,
"Oh, soon return!"

If ever yet my bosom found
Its thoughts one moment turn'd from thee,
'Twas when the combat rag'd around,
And brave men look'd to me.
But though the war-field's wild alarm
For gentle Love was all unmeet,
He lent to Glory's brow the charm,
Which made even danger sweet.
And still, when vict'ry's calm came o'er
The hearts where rage had ceas'd to burn,
Those parting words I heard once more,
"Oh, soon return!—Oh, soon return!"

LOVE THEE?

Love thee?—so well, so tenderly
Thou'rt lov'd, ador'd by me,
Fame, fortune, wealth, and liberty,
Were worthless without thee.
Though brimm'd with blessings, pure and rare,
Life's cup before me lay,
Unless thy love were mingled there,
I'd spurn the draught away.
Love thee?—so well, so tenderly
Thou'rt lov'd, ador'd by me,
Fame, fortune, wealth, and liberty,
Are worthless without thee.

Without thy smile, the monarch's lot
To me were dark and lone,
While, *with* it, ev'n the humblest cot
Were brighter than his throne.
Those worlds, for which the conqu'ror sighs,
For me would have no charms;
My only world thy gentle eyes—
My throne thy circling arms!
Oh, yes, so well, so tenderly
Thou'rt lov'd, ador'd by me,
Whole realms of light and liberty
Were worthless without thee.

ONE DEAR SMILE.

Couldst thou look as dear as when
First I sigh'd for thee;
Couldst thou make me feel again
Every wish I breath'd thee then,
Oh, how blissful life would be!
Hopes, that now beguiling leave me,
Joys, that lie in slumber cold—
All would wake, couldst thou but give me
One dear smile like those of old.

No—there's nothing left us now,
But to mourn the past;
Vain was every ardent vow—
Never yet did heaven allow
Love so warm, so wild, to last.
Not even hope could now deceive me—
Life itself looks dark and cold:
Oh, thou never more canst give me
One dear smile like those of old.

YES, YES, WHEN THE BLOOM.

Yes, yes, when the bloom of Love's boyhood is o'er,
He'll turn into friendship that feels no decay;
And, though Time may take from him the wings he once wore,
The charms that remain will be bright as before,
And he'll lose but his young trick of flying away.

Then let it console thee, if Love should not stay,
That Friendship our last happy moments will crown:
Like the shadows of morning, Love lessens away,
While Friendship, like those at the closing of day,
Will linger and lengthen as life's sun goes down.

THE DAY OF LOVE.

The beam of morning trembling
Stole o'er the mountain brook,
With timid ray resembling
Affection's early look.
Thus love begins — sweet morn of love!

The noon-tide ray ascended,
And o'er the valley's stream
Diffus'd a glow as splendid
As passion's riper dream.
Thus love expands — warm noon of love!

But evening came, o'ershading
The glories of the sky,
Like faith and fondness fading
From passion's alter'd eye.
Thus love declines — cold eve of love!

LUSITANIAN WAR-SONG.

The song of war shall echo through our mountains,
Till not one hateful link remains
Of slavery's lingering chains;
Till not one tyrant tread our plains,
Nor traitor lip pollute our fountains.
No! never till that glorious day
Shall Lusitania's sons be gay,
Or hear, oh Peace, thy welcome lay
Resounding through her sunny mountains.

The song of war shall echo through our mountains,
Till Victory's self shall, smiling, say,
"Your cloud of foes hath pass'd away,
"And Freedom comes, with new-born ray,
"To gild your vines and light your fountains."
Oh, never till that glorious day
Shall Lusitania's sons be gay,
Or hear, sweet Peace, thy welcome lay
Resounding through her sunny mountains.

THE YOUNG ROSE.

The young rose I give thee, so dewy and bright,
Was the flow'ret most dear to the sweet bird of night,
Who oft, by the moon, o'er her blushes hath hung,
And thrill'd every leaf with the wild lay he sung.

Oh, take thou this young rose, and let her life be
Prolong'd by the breath she will borrow from thee;
For, while o'er her bosom thy soft notes shall thrill,
She'll think the sweet night-bird is courting her still.

WHEN MIDST THE GAY I MEET.

When midst the gay I meet
That gentle smile of thine,
Though still on me it turns most sweet,
I scarce can call it mine:
But when to me alone
Your secret tears you show,
Oh, then I feel those tears my own,
And claim them while they flow.
Then still with bright looks bless
The gay, the cold, the free;
Give smiles to those who love you less,
But keep your tears for me.

The snow on Jura's steep
Can smile in many a beam,
Yet still in chains of coldness sleep,
How bright soe'er it seem.
But, when some deep-felt ray,
Whose touch is fire, appears,
Oh, then the smile is warm'd away,
And, melting, turns to tears.
Then still with bright looks bless
The gay, the cold, the free;
Give smiles to those who love you less,
But keep your tears for me.

WHEN TWILIGHT DEWS.

When twilight dews are falling soft
  Upon the rosy sea, love,
I watch the star, whose beam so oft
  Has lighted me to thee, love.
And thou too, on that orb so dear,
  Dost often gaze at even,
And think, though lost for ever here,
  Thou'lt yet be mine in heaven.

There's not a garden walk I tread,
  There's not a flow'r I see, love,
But brings to mind some hope that's fled,
  Some joy that's gone with thee, love.
And still I wish that hour was near,
  When, friends and foes forgiven,
The pains, the ills we've wept through here,
  May turn to smiles in heaven.

YOUNG JESSICA.

Young Jessica sat all the day,
  With heart o'er idle love-thoughts pining;
Her needle bright beside her lay,
  So active once!—now idly shining.
Ah, Jessy, 'tis in idle hearts
  That love and mischief are most nimble;
The safest shield against the darts
  Of Cupid, is Minerva's thimble.

The child, who with a magnet plays,
  Well knowing all its arts, so wily,
The tempter near a needle lays,
  And laughing says, "We'll steal it slily."
The needle, having nought to do,
  Is pleas'd to let the magnet wheedle;
Till closer, closer come the two,
  And—off, at length, elopes the needle.

Now, had this needle turn'd its eye
  To some gay reticule's construction,
It ne'er had stray'd from duty's tie,
  Nor felt the magnet's sly seduction.
Thus, girls, would you keep quiet hearts,
  Your snowy fingers must be nimble;
The safest shield against the darts
  Of Cupid, is Minerva's thimble.

HOW HAPPY, ONCE.

How happy, once, though wing'd with sighs,
  My moments flew along,
While looking on those smiling eyes,
  And list'ning to thy magic song!
But vanish'd now, like summer dreams,
  Those moments smile no more;
For me that eye no longer beams,
  That song for me is o'er.
Mine the cold brow,
That speaks thy alter'd vow,
While others feel thy sunshine now.

Oh, could I change my love like thee,
  One hope might yet be mine—
Some other eyes as bright to see,
  And hear a voice as sweet as thine:
But never, never can this heart
  Be wak'd to life again;
With thee it lost its vital part,
  And wither'd then!
Cold its pulse lies,
And mute are ev'n its sighs,
All other grief it now defies.

I LOVE BUT THEE.

If, after all, you still will doubt and fear me,
  And think this heart to other loves will stray,
If I must swear, then, lovely doubter, hear me;
  By ev'ry dream I have when thou'rt away,
By ev'ry throb I feel when thou art near me,
  I love but thee—I love but thee!

By those dark eyes, where light is ever playing,
  Where Love, in depth of shadow, holds his throne,
And by those lips, which give whate'er thou'rt saying,
  Or grave or gay, a music of its own,
A music far beyond all minstrel's playing,
  I love but thee—I love but thee!

By that fair brow, where Innocence reposes,
  As pure as moonlight sleeping upon snow,
And by that cheek, whose fleeting blush discloses
  A hue too bright to bless this world below,
And only fit to dwell on Eden's roses,
  I love but thee—I love but thee!

LET JOY ALONE BE REMEMBER'D NOW.

Let thy joys alone be remember'd now,
Let thy sorrows go sleep awhile;
Or if thought's dark cloud come o'er thy brow,
Let Love light it up with his smile.
For thus to meet, and thus to find,
That Time, whose touch can chill
Each flower of form, each grace of mind,
Hath left thee blooming still,—
Oh, joy alone should be thought of now,
Let our sorrows go sleep awhile;
Or, should thought's dark cloud come o'er thy brow,
Let Love light it up with his smile.

When the flowers of life's sweet garden fade,
If but *one* bright leaf remain,
Of the many that once its glory made,
It is not for us to complain.
But thus to meet and thus to wake
In all Love's early bliss;
Oh, Time all other gifts may take,
So he but leaves us this!
Then let joy alone be remember'd now,
Let our sorrows go sleep awhile;
Or if thoughts dark cloud come o'er thy brow,
Let Love light it up with his smile!

LOVE THEE, DEAREST? LOVE THEE?

Love thee, dearest? love thee?
Yes, by yonder star I swear,
Which through tears above thee
Shines so sadly fair;
Though often dim,
With tears, like him,
Like him my truth will shine,
And—love thee, dearest? love thee?
Yes, till death I'm thine.

Leave thee, dearest? leave thee?
No, that star is not more true;
When my vows deceive thee,
He will wander too.
A cloud of night
May veil his light,
And death shall darken mine—
But—leave thee, dearest? leave thee?
No, till death I'm thine.

MY HEART AND LUTE.

I give thee all—I can no more—
Though poor the off'ring be;
My heart and lute are all the store
That I can bring to thee.
A lute whose gentle song reveals
The soul of love full well;
And, better far, a heart that feels
Much more than lute could tell.

Though love and song may fail, alas!
To keep life's clouds away,
At least 'twill make them lighter pass
Or gild them if they stay.
And ev'n if Care, at moments, flings
A discord o'er life's happy strain,
Let love but gently touch the strings,
'Twill all be sweet again!

PEACE, PEACE TO HIM THAT'S GONE!

When I am dead
Then lay my head
In some lone, distant dell,
Where voices ne'er
Shall stir the air,
Or break its silent spell.

If any sound
Be heard around,
Let the sweet bird alone,
That weeps in song
Sing all night long,
"Peace, peace, to him that's gone!"

Yet, oh, were mine
One sigh of thine,
One pitying word from thee,
Like gleams of heav'n,
To sinners giv'n,
Would be that word to me.

Howe'er unblest,
My shade would rest
While list'ning to that tone;—
Enough 'twould be
To hear from thee,
"Peace, peace, to him that's gone!"

ROSE OF THE DESERT.

Rose of the Desert! thou, whose blushing ray,
Lonely and lovely, fleets unseen away;
No hand to cull thee, none to woo thy sigh,—
In vestal silence left to live and die,—
Rose of the Desert! thus should woman be,
Shining uncourted, lone and safe, like thee.

Rose of the Garden, how unlike thy doom!
Destin'd for others, not thyself, to bloom
Cull'd ere thy beauty lives through half its day;
A moment cherish'd, and then cast away;
Rose of the Garden! such is woman's lot,—
Worshipp'd, while blooming—when she fades, forgot.

'TIS ALL FOR THEE.

If life for me hath joy or light,
'Tis all from thee,
My thoughts by day, my dreams by night,
Are but of thee, of only thee.
Whate'er of hope or peace I know,
My zest in joy, my balm in woe,
To those dear eyes of thine I owe,
'Tis all from thee.

My heart, ev'n ere I saw those eyes,
Seem'd doom'd to thee;
Kept pure till then from other ties,
'Twas all for thee, for only thee.
Like plants that sleep, till sunny May
Calls forth their life, my spirit lay,
Till, touch'd by Love's awak'ning ray,
It liv'd for thee, it liv'd for thee.

When Fame would call me to her heights,
She speaks by thee;
And dim would shine her proudest lights,
Unshar'd by thee, unshar'd by thee.
Whene'er I seek the Muse's shrine,
Where Bards have hung their wreaths divine,
And wish those wreaths of glory mine,
'Tis all for thee, for only thee.

THE SONG OF THE OLDEN TIME.[1]

There's a song of the olden time,
Falling sad o'er the ear,
Like the dream of some village chime,
Which in youth we lov'd to hear.
And ev'n amidst the grand and gay,
When Music tries her gentlest art,
I never hear so sweet a lay,
Or one that hangs so round my heart,
As that song of the olden time,
Falling sad o'er the ear,
Like the dream of some village chime,
Which in youth we lov'd to hear.

And when all of this life is gone,—
Ev'n the hope, ling'ring now,
Like the last of the leaves left on
Autumn's sere and faded bough,—
'Twill seem as still those friends were near,
Who lov'd me in youth's early day,
If in that parting hour I hear
The same sweet notes, and die away,—
To that song of the olden time,
Breath'd, like Hope's farewell strain,
To say, in some brighter clime,
Life and youth will shine again!

WAKE THEE, MY DEAR.

Wake thee, my dear—thy dreaming
Till darker hours will keep;
While such a moon is beaming,
'Tis wrong tow'rds Heav'n to sleep.

Moments there are we number,
Moments of pain and care,
Which to oblivious slumber
Gladly the wretch would spare.
But now—who'd think of dreaming
When Love his watch should keep?
While such a moon is beaming,
'Tis wrong tow'rds Heav'n to sleep.

If e'er the Fates should sever
My life and hopes from thee, love,
The sleep that lasts for ever
Would then be sweet to me, love;

[1] In this song, which is one of the many set to music by myself, the occasional lawlessness of the metre arises, I need hardly say, from the peculiar structure of the air.

But now, — away with dreaming!
Till darker hours 'twill keep;
While such a moon is beaming,
'Tis wrong tow'rds Heav'n to sleep.

THE BOY OF THE ALPS.[1]

Lightly, Alpine rover,
Tread the mountains over;
Rude is the path thou'st yet to go;
Snow cliffs hanging o'er thee,
Fields of ice before thee,
While the hid torrent moans below.
Hark, the deep thunder,
Through the vales yonder!
'Tis the huge av'lanche downward cast;
From rock to rock
Rebounds the shock.
But courage, boy! the danger's past.
Onward, youthful rover,
Tread the glacier over,
Safe shalt thou reach thy home at last.
On, ere light forsake thee,
Soon will dusk o'ertake thee:
O'er yon ice-bridge lies thy way!
Now, for the risk prepare thee;
Safe it yet may bear thee,
Though 'twill melt in morning's ray.

Hark, that dread howling!
'Tis the wolf prowling, —
Scent of thy track the foe hath got;
And cliff and shore
Resound his roar.
But courage, boy, — the danger's past!
Watching eyes have found thee,
Loving arms are round thee,
Safe hast thou reach'd thy father's cot.

FOR THEE ALONE.

For thee alone I brave the boundless deep,
Those eyes my light through ev'ry distant sea;
My waking thoughts, the dream that gilds my sleep,
The noon-tide rev'rie, all are giv'n to thee,
To thee alone, to thee alone.

Though future scenes present to Fancy's eye
Fair forms of light that crowd the distant air,
When nearer view'd, the fairy phantoms fly,
The crowds dissolve, and thou alone art there,
Thou, thou alone.

To win thy smile, I speed from shore to shore,
While Hope's sweet voice is heard in every blast,
Still whisp'ring on, that when some years are o'er,
One bright reward shall crown my toil at last,
Thy smile alone, thy smile alone.

Oh place beside the transport of that hour
All earth can boast of fair, of rich, and bright,
Wealth's radiant mines, the lofty thrones of power, —
Then ask where first thy lover's choice would light?
On thee alone, on thee alone.

HER LAST WORDS, AT PARTING.

Her last words, at parting, how *can* I forget?
Deep treasur'd through life, in my heart they shall stay;
Like music, whose charm in the soul lingers yet,
When its sounds from the ear have long melted away.
Let Fortune assail me, her threat'nings are vain;
Those still-breathing words shall my talisman be, —
"Remember, in absence, in sorrow, and pain,
"There's one heart, unchanging, that beats but for thee."

From the desert's sweet well tho' the pilgrim must hie,
Never more of that fresh-springing fountain to taste,
He hath still of its bright drops a treasur'd supply,
Whose sweetness lends life to his lips through the waste.
So, dark as my fate is still doom'd to remain,
These words shall my well in the wilderness be, —
"Remember, in absence, in sorrow, and pain,
"There's one heart, unchanging, that beats but for thee."

[1] This and the Songs that follow (as far as page 310.) have been published, with music, by Messrs. Addison and Beale, Regent Street.

LET'S TAKE THIS WORLD AS SOME WIDE SCENE.

Let's take this world as some wide scene,
Through which, in frail, but buoyant boat,
With skies now dark and now serene,
Together thou and I must float;
Beholding oft, on either shore,
Bright spots where we should love to stay;
But Time plies swift his flying oar,
And away we speed, away, away.

Should chilling winds and rains come on,
We'll raise our awning 'gainst the show'r;
Sit closer till the storm is gone,
And, smiling, wait a sunnier hour.
And if that sunnier hour should shine,
We'll know its brightness cannot stay,
But happy, while 'tis thine and mine,
Complain not when it fades away.

So shall we reach at last that Fall
Down which life's currents all must go,—
The dark, the brilliant, destin'd all
To sink into the void below.
Nor ev'n that hour shall want its charms,
If, side by side, still fond we keep,
And calmly, in each other's arms
Together link'd, go down the steep.

LOVE'S VICTORY.

Sing to Love — for, oh, 'twas he
Who won the glorious day;
Strew the wreaths of victory
Along the conqu'ror's way.
Yoke the Muses to his car,
Let them sing each trophy won;
While his mother's joyous star
Shall light the triumph on.

Hail to Love, to mighty Love,
Let spirits sing around;
While the hill, the dale, and grove,
With "mighty Love" resound;
Or, should a sigh of sorrow steal
Amid the sounds thus echo'd o'er,
'Twill but teach the god to feel
His victories the more.

See his wings, like amethyst
Of sunny Ind their hue;
Bright as when, by Psyche kist,
They trembled through and through.
Flowers spring beneath his feet;
Angel forms beside him run;
While unnumber'd lips repeat
"Love's victory is won!"
Hail to Love, to mighty Love, &c.

SONG OF HERCULES TO HIS DAUGHTER.[1]

"I've been, oh, sweet daughter,
"To fountain and sea,
"To seek in their water
"Some bright gem for thee.
"Where diamonds were sleeping,
"Their sparkle I sought,
"Where crystal was weeping,
"Its tears I have caught.

"The sea-nymph I've courted
"In rich coral halls;
"With Naiads have sported
"By bright waterfalls.
"But sportive or tender,
"Still sought I, around,
"That gem, with whose splendour
"Thou yet shalt be crown'd.

"And see, while I'm speaking,
"Yon soft light afar;—
"The pearl I've been seeking
"There floats like a star!
"In the deep Indian Ocean
"I see the gem shine,
"And quick as light's motion
"Its wealth shall be thine."

Then eastward, like lightning,
The hero-god flew,
His sunny looks bright'ning
The air he went through.
And sweet was the duty,
And hallow'd the hour,
Which saw thus young Beauty
Embellish'd by Power.

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[1] Founded on the fable reported by Arrian (in Indicis) of Hercules having searched the Indian Ocean, to find the pearl with which he adorned his daughter Pandæa.

THE DREAM OF HOME.

Who has not felt how sadly sweet
The dream of home, the dream of home,
Steals o'er the heart, too soon to fleet,
When far o'er sea or land we roam?
Sunlight more soft may o'er us fall,
To greener shores our bark may come;
But far more bright, more dear than all,
That dream of home, that dream of home.

Ask of the sailor youth when far
His light bark bounds o'er ocean's foam,
What charms him most, when ev'ning's star
Smiles o'er the wave? to dream of home.
Fond thoughts of absent friends and loves
At that sweet hour around him come;
His heart's best joy where'er he roves,
That dream of home, that dream of home.

THEY TELL ME THOU'RT THE FAVOUR'D GUEST.[1]

They tell me thou'rt the favour'd guest
Of every fair and brilliant throng;
No wit like thine to wake the jest,
No voice like thine to breathe the song;
And none could guess, so gay thou art,
That thou and I are far apart.

Alas! alas! how diff'rent flows
With thee and me the time away!
Not that I wish thee sad—heav'n knows—
Still if thou can'st, be light and gay;
I only know, that without thee
The sun himself is dark to me.

Do I thus haste to hall and bower,
Among the proud and gay to shine?
Or deck my hair with gem and flower,
To flatter other eyes than thine?
Ah, no, with me love's smiles are past,
Thou hadst the first, thou hadst the last.

THE YOUNG INDIAN MAID.

There came a nymph dancing
Gracefully, gracefully,
Her eye a light glancing
Like the blue sea;
And while all this gladness
Around her steps hung,
Such sweet notes of sadness
Her gentle lips sung,
That ne'er while I live from my mem'ry shall fade
The song, or the look, of that young Indian maid.

Her zone of bells ringing
Cheerily, cheerily,
Chimed to her singing
Light echos of glee;
But in vain did she borrow
Of mirth the gay tone,
Her voice spoke of sorrow,
And sorrow alone.
Nor e'er while I live from my mem'ry shall fade
The song, or the look, of that young Indian maid.

THE HOMEWARD MARCH.

Be still, my heart: I hear them come:
Those sounds announce my lover near:
The march that brings our warriors home
Proclaims he'll soon be here.

Hark, the distant tread,
O'er the mountain's head,
While hills and dales repeat the sound;
And the forest deer
Stand still to hear,
As those echoing steps ring round.

Be still, my heart, I hear them come,
Those sounds that speak my soldier near;
Those joyous steps seem wing'd for home,—
Rest, rest, he'll soon be here.

But hark, more faint the footsteps grow,
And now they wind to distant glades;
Not here their home,—alas, they go
To gladden happier maids!

Like sounds in a dream,
The footsteps seem,
As down the hills they die away;
And the march, whose song
So peal'd along,
Now fades like a funeral lay.

[1] Part of a translation of some Latin verses, supposed to have been addressed by Hippolyta Taurella to her husband, during his absence at the gay court of Leo the Tenth. The verses may be found in the Appendix to Roscoe's Work.

'Tis past, 'tis o'er,—hush, heart, thy pain!
And though not here, alas, they come
Rejoice for those, to whom that strain
Brings sons and lovers home.

WAKE UP, SWEET MELODY.

WAKE up, sweet melody!
Now is the hour
When young and loving hearts
Feel most thy pow'r.
One note of music, by moonlight's soft ray—
Oh, 'tis worth thousands heard coldly by day.
Then wake up, sweet melody!
Now is the hour
When young and loving hearts
Feel most thy pow'r.

Ask the fond nightingale,
When his sweet flow'r
Loves most to hear his song,
In her green bow'r?
Oh, he will tell thee, through summer-nights long,
Fondest she lends her whole soul to his song.
Then wake up, sweet melody!
Now is the hour
When young and loving hearts
Feel most thy pow'r.

CALM BE THY SLEEP.

CALM be thy sleep as infants' slumbers!
Pure as angel thoughts thy dreams!
May ev'ry joy this bright world numbers
Shed o'er thee their mingled beams!
Or if, where Pleasure's wing hath glided,
There ever must some pang remain,
Still be thy lot with me divided,—
Thine all the bliss, and mine the pain!

Day and night my thoughts shall hover
Round thy steps where'er they stray;
As, ev'n when clouds his idol cover,
Fondly the Persian tracks its ray.
If this be wrong, if Heav'n offended
By worship to its creature be,
Then let my vows to both be blended,
Half breath'd to Heav'n and half to thee.

THE EXILE.

NIGHT waneth fast, the morning star
Saddens with light the glimm'ring sea,
Whose waves shall soon to realms afar
Waft me from hope, from love, and thee.
Coldly the beam from yonder sky
Looks o'er the waves that onward stray;
But colder still the stranger's eye
To him whose home is far away.

Oh, not at hour so chill and bleak,
Let thoughts of me come o'er thy breast;
But of the lost one think and speak,
When summer suns sink calm to rest.
So, as I wander, Fancy's dream
Shall bring me o'er the sunset seas,
Thy look, in ev'ry melting beam,
Thy whisper, in each dying breeze.

THE FANCY FAIR.

COME, maids and youths, for here we sell
All wondrous things of earth and air;
Whatever wild romancers tell,
Or poets sing, or lovers swear,
You'll find at this our Fancy Fair.

Here eyes are made like stars to shine,
And kept, for years, in such repair,
That ev'n when turn'd of thirty-nine,
They'll hardly look the worse for wear,
If bought at this our Fancy Fair.

We've lots of tears for bards to show'r,
And hearts that such ill usage bear,
That, though they're broken ev'ry hour,
They'll still in rhyme fresh breaking bear,
If purchas'd at our Fancy Fair.

As fashions change in ev'ry thing,
We've goods to suit each season's air,
Eternal friendships for the spring,
And endless loves for summer wear,—
All sold at this our Fancy Fair.

We've reputations white as snow,
That long will last, if us'd with care,
Nay, safe through all life's journey go,
If pack'd and mark'd as "brittle ware,"—
Just purchas'd at the Fancy Fair.

IF THOU WOULD'ST HAVE ME SING AND PLAY.

If thou wouldst have me sing and play,
As once I play'd and sung,
First take this time-worn lute away,
And bring one freshly strung.
Call back the time when pleasure's sigh
First breath'd among the strings;
And Time himself, in flitting by,
Made music with his wings.

But how is this? though new the lute,
And shining fresh the chords,
Beneath this hand they slumber mute,
Or speak but dreamy words.
In vain I seek the soul that dwelt
Within that once sweet shell,
Which told so warmly what it felt,
And felt what nought could tell.

Oh, ask not then for passion's lay,
From lyre so coldly strung;
With this I ne'er can sing or play,
As once I play'd and sung.
No, bring that long-lov'd lute again,—
Though chill'd by years it be,
If *thou* wilt call the slumb'ring strain,
'Twill wake again for thee.

Though time have froz'n the tuneful stream
Of thoughts that gush'd along,
One look from thee, like summer's beam,
Will thaw them into song.
Then give, oh give, that wak'ning ray,
And once more blithe and young,
Thy bard again will sing and play,
As once he play'd and sung.

STILL WHEN DAYLIGHT.

Still when daylight o'er the wave
Bright and soft its farewell gave,
I us'd to hear, while light was falling,
O'er the wave a sweet voice calling,
Mournfully at distance calling.

Ah! once how blest that maid would come,
To meet her sea-boy hast'ning home;
And through the night those sounds repeating,
Hail his bark with joyous greeting,
Joyously his light bark greeting.

But, one sad night, when winds were high,
Nor earth, nor heaven, could hear her cry,
She saw his boat come tossing over
Midnight's wave,—but not her lover!
No, never more her lover.

And still that sad dream loth to leave,
She comes with wand'ring mind at eve,
And oft we hear, when night is falling,
Faint her voice through twilight calling,
Mournfully at twilight calling.

THE SUMMER WEBS.

The summer webs that float and shine,
The summer dews that fall,
Though light they be, this heart of mine
Is lighter still than all.
It tells me every cloud is past
Which lately seem'd to lour;
That Hope hath wed young Joy at last,
And now's their nuptial hour!

With light thus round, within, above,
With nought to wake one sigh,
Except the wish, that all we love
Were at this moment nigh,—
It seems as if life's brilliant sun
Had stopp'd in full career,
To make this hour its brightest one,
And rest in radiance here.

MIND NOT THOUGH DAYLIGHT.

Mind not though daylight around us is breaking,—
Who'd think now of sleeping when morn's but just waking?
Sound the merry viol, and daylight or not,
Be all for one hour in the gay dance forgot.

See young Aurora, up heaven's hill advancing,
Though fresh from her pillow, ev'n she too is dancing:
While thus all creation, earth, heaven, and sea,
Are dancing around us, oh, why should not we?

Who'll say that moments we use thus are wasted?
Such sweet drops of time only flow to be tasted;
While hearts are high beating, and harps full in tune,
The fault is all morning's for coming so soon.

THEY MET BUT ONCE.

They met but once, in youth's sweet hour,
And never since that day
Hath absence, time, or grief had pow'r
To chase that dream away.
They've seen the suns of other skies,
On other shores have sought delight;
But never more, to bless their eyes,
Can come a dream so bright!
They met but once,—a day was all
Of Love's young hopes they knew;
And still their hearts that day recall,
As fresh as then it flew.

Sweet dream of youth! oh, ne'er again
Let either meet the brow
They left so smooth and smiling then,
Or see what it is now.
For, Youth, the spell was only thine;
From thee alone th' enchantment flows,
That makes the world around thee shine
With light thyself bestows.
They met but once,—oh, ne'er again
Let either meet the brow
They left so smooth and smiling then,
Or see what it is now.

WITH MOONLIGHT BEAMING.

With moonlight beaming
Thus o'er the deep,
Who'd linger dreaming
In idle sleep?
Leave joyless souls to live by day,—
Our life begins with yonder ray;
And while thus brightly
The moments flee,
Our barks skim lightly
The shining sea.

To halls of splendour
Let great ones hie;
Through light more tender
Our pathways lie.
While round, from banks of brook or lake,
Our company blithe echoes make;
And, as we lend 'em
Sweet word or strain,
Still back they send 'em,
More sweet, again.

CHILD'S SONG. FROM A MASQUE.

I have a garden of my own,
Shining with flow'rs of ev'ry hue;
I lov'd it dearly while alone,
But I shall love it more with you:
And there the golden bees shall come,
In summer-time at break of morn,
And wake us with their busy hum
Around the Siha's fragrant thorn.

I have a fawn from Aden's land,
On leafy buds and berries nurst;
And you shall feed him from your hand,
Though he may start with fear at first.
And I will lead you where he lies
For shelter in the noontide heat;
And you may touch his sleeping eyes,
And feel his little silv'ry feet.

THE HALCYON HANGS O'ER OCEAN.

The halcyon hangs o'er ocean,
The sea-lark skims the brine;
This bright world's all in motion,
No heart seems sad but mine.

To walk through sun-bright places,
With heart all cold the while;
To look in smiling faces,
When we no more can smile;

To feel, while earth and heaven
Around thee shine with bliss,
To thee no light is given,—
Oh, what a doom is this!

THE WORLD WAS HUSH'D.

The world was hush'd, the moon above
Sail'd through ether slowly,

When, near the casement of my love,
Thus I whisper'd lowly, —
"Awake, awake, how canst thou sleep?
"The field I seek to-morrow
"Is one where man hath fame to reap,
"And woman gleans but sorrow."

"Let battle's field be what it may,"
Thus spoke a voice replying,
"Think not thy love, while thou'rt away,
"Will here sit idly sighing.
"No — woman's soul, if not for fame,
"For love can brave all danger!"
Then forth from out the casement came
A plum'd and armed stranger.

A stranger? No; 'twas she, the maid,
Herself before me beaming,
With casque array'd, and falchion blade
Beneath her girdle gleaming!
Close side by side, in freedom's fight,
That blessed morning found us;
In Vict'ry's light we stood ere night,
And Love, the morrow, crown'd us!

THE TWO LOVES.

THERE are two Loves, the poet sings,
Both born of Beauty at a birth:
The one, akin to heaven, hath wings,
The other, earthly, walks on earth.
With *this* through bowers below we play,
With *that* through clouds above we soar;
With both, perchance, may lose our way: —
Then, tell me which,
Tell me which shall we adore?

The one, when tempted down from air,
At Pleasure's fount to lave his lip,
Nor lingers long, nor oft will dare
His wing within the wave to dip.
While, plunging deep and long beneath,
The other bathes him o'er and o'er
In that sweet current, ev'n to death: —
Then, tell me which,
Tell me which shall we adore?

The boy of heav'n, even while he lies
In Beauty's lap, recalls his home;
And when most happy, inly sighs
For something happier still to come.
While he of earth, too fully blest
With this bright world to dream of more,
Sees all his heav'n on Beauty's breast: —
Then, tell me which,
Tell me which shall we adore?

The maid who heard the poet sing
These twin-desires of earth and sky,
And saw, while one inspir'd his string,
The other glisten'd in his eye, —
To name the earthlier boy asham'd,
To choose the other fondly loath,
At length, all blushing, she exclaim'd, —
"Ask not which,
"Oh, ask not which — we'll worship both.

"Th' extremes of each thus taught to shun,
"With hearts and souls between them given,
"When weary of this earth with one,
"We'll with the other wing to heaven."
Thus pledg'd the maid her vow of bliss;
And while *one* Love wrote down the oath,
The other seal'd it with a kiss;
And Heav'n look'd on,
Heav'n look'd on, and hallow'd both.

THE LEGEND OF PUCK THE FAIRY.

WOULDST know what tricks, by the pale moonlight,
Are play'd by me, the merry little Sprite,
Who wing through air from the camp to the court,
From king to clown, and of all make sport;
Singing, I am the Sprite
Of the merry midnight,
Who laugh at weak mortals, and love the moonlight.

To a miser's bed, where he snoring slept
And dreamt of his cash, I slily crept;
Chink, chink o'er his pillow like money I rang,
And he waked to catch — but away I sprang,
Singing, I am the Sprite, &c.

I saw through the leaves, in a damsel's bower,
She was waiting her love at that starlight hour:
"Hist — hist!" quoth I, with an amorous sigh,
And she flew to the door, but away flew I,
Singing, I am the Sprite, &c.

While a bard sat inditing an ode to his love,
Like a pair of blue meteors I star'd from above,

And he swoon'd — for he thought 'twas the ghost, poor man!
Of his lady's eyes, while away I ran,
Singing, I am the Sprite, &c.

BEAUTY AND SONG.

Down in yon summer vale,
Where the rill flows,
Thus said a Nightingale
To his lov'd Rose: —
"Though rich the pleasures
"Of song's sweet measures,
"Vain were its melody,
"Rose, without thee."

Then from the green recess
Of her night-bow'r,
Beaming with bashfulness,
Spoke the bright flow'r: —
"Though morn should lend her
"Its sunniest splendour,
"What would the Rose be,
"Unsung by thee?"

Thus still let Song attend
Woman's bright way;
Thus still let woman lend
Light to the lay.
Like stars, through heaven's sea,
Floating in harmony,
Beauty shall glide along,
Circled by Song.

WHEN THOU ART NIGH.

When thou art nigh, it seems
A new creation round;
The sun hath fairer beams,
The lute a softer sound.
Though thee alone I see,
And hear alone thy sigh,
'Tis light, 'tis song to me,
'Tis all — when thou art nigh.

When thou art nigh, no thought
Of grief comes o'er my heart;
I only think — could aught
But joy be where thou art?
Life seems a waste of breath,
When far from thee I sigh;
And death — ay, even death
Were sweet, if thou wert nigh.

SONG OF A HYPERBOREAN.

I come from a land in the sun-bright deep,
Where golden gardens grow;
Where the winds of the north, becalm'd in sleep,
Their conch-shells never blow.[1]
Haste to that holy Isle with me,
Haste — haste!

So near the track of the stars are we,[2]
That oft, on night's pale beams,
The distant sounds of their harmony
Come to our ears, like dreams.
Then, haste to that holy Isle with me, &c. &c.

The Moon, too, brings her world so nigh,[3]
That when the night-seer looks
To that shadowless orb, in a vernal sky,
He can number its hills and brooks.
Then, haste, &c. &c.

To the Sun-god all our hearts and lyres[4]
By day, by night, belong;
And the breath we draw from his living fires,
We give him back in song.
Then, haste, &c. &c.

From us descends the maid who brings
To Delos gifts divine;
And our wild bees lend their rainbow wings
To glitter on Delphi's shrine.[5]
Then, haste to that holy Isle with me,
Haste — haste!

THOU BIDST ME SING.

Thou bidst me sing the lay I sung to thee
In other days, ere joy had left this brow;

[1] On the Tower of the Winds, at Athens, there is a conch-shell placed in the hands of Boreas.—See *Stuart's Antiquities*. "The north wind," says Herodotus, in speaking of the Hyperboreans, "never blows with them."

[2] "Sub ipso siderum cardine jacent." — Pompon. Mela.

[3] "They can shew the moon very near." — Diodor. Sicul.

[4] Hecatæus tells us, that this Hyperborean island was dedicated to Apollo; and most of the inhabitants were either priests or songsters.

[5] Pausan.

But think, though still unchang'd the notes may be,
How diff'rent feels the heart that breathes them now!
The rose thou wear'st to-night is still the same
We saw this morning on its stem so gay;
But, ah! that dew of dawn, that breath which came
Like life o'er all its leaves, hath pass'd away.

Since first that music touch'd thy heart and mine,
How many a joy and pain o'er both have past,—
The joy, a light too precious long to shine,
The pain, a cloud whose shadows always last.
And though that lay would like the voice of home
Breathe o'er our ear, 'twould waken now a sigh—
Ah! not, as then, for fancied woes to come,
But, sadder far, for real bliss gone by.

CUPID ARMED.

Place the helm on thy brow,
In thy hand take the spear;
Thou art arm'd, Cupid, now,
And thy battle-hour is near.
March on! march on! thy shaft and bow
Were weak against such charms;
March on! march on! so proud a foe
Scorns all but martial arms.

See the darts in her eyes,
Tipt with scorn, how they shine!
Ev'ry shaft, as it flies,
Mocking proudly at thine.
March on! march on! thy feather'd darts
Soft bosoms soon might move;
But ruder arms to ruder hearts
Must teach what 'tis to love.
Place the helm on thy brow;
In thy hand take the spear,—
Thou art arm'd Cupid, now,
And thy battle-hour is near.

ROUND THE WORLD GOES.

Round the world goes, by day and night,
While with it also round go we;
And in the flight of one day's light
An image of all life's course we see.

Round, round, while thus we go round,
The best thing a man can do,
Is to make it, at least, a *merry*-go-round,
By—sending the wine round too.

Our first gay stage of life is when
Youth, in its dawn, salutes the eye—
Season of bliss! Oh, who wouldn't then
Wish to cry, "Stop!" to earth and sky?
But, round, round, both boy and girl
Are whisk'd through that sky of blue;
And much would their hearts enjoy the whirl,
If—their heads didn't whirl round too.

Next, we enjoy our glorious noon,
Thinking all life a life of light;
But shadows come on, 'tis evening soon,
And, ere we can say, "How short!"—'tis night.
Round, round, still all goes round,
Ev'n while I'm thus singing to you;
And the best way to make it a *merry*-go-round,
Is to—chorus my song round too.

OH, DO NOT LOOK SO BRIGHT AND BLEST.

Oh, do not look so bright and blest,
For still there comes a fear,
When brow like thine looks happiest,
That grief is then most near.
There lurks a dread in all delight,
A shadow near each ray,
That warns us then to fear their flight,
When most we wish their stay.
Then look not thou so bright and blest,
For ah! there comes a fear,
When brow like thine looks happiest,
That grief is then most near.

Why is it thus that fairest things
The soonest fleet and die?—
That when most light is on their wings,
They're then but spread to fly!
And, sadder still, the pain will stay—
The bliss no more appears;
As rainbows take their light away,
And leave us but the tears!
Then look not thou so bright and blest,
For ah! there comes a fear,
When brow like thine looks happiest,
That grief is then most near.

THE MUSICAL BOX.

"Look here," said Rose, with laughing eyes,
"Within this box, by magic hid,
"A tuneful Sprite imprison'd lies,
"Who sings to me whene'er he's bid.
"Though roving once his voice and wing,
"He'll now lie still the whole day long;
"Till thus I touch the magic spring—
"Then hark, how sweet and blithe his song!"
(*A symphony.*)

"Ah, Rose," I cried, "the poet's lay
"Must ne'er ev'n Beauty's slave become;
"Through earth and air his song may stray,
"If all the while his heart's at home.
"And though in Freedom's air he dwell,
"Nor bond nor chain his spirit knows,
"Touch but the spring thou know'st so well,
"And—hark, how sweet the love-song flows!"
(*A symphony.*)

Thus pleaded I for Freedom's right;
But when young Beauty takes the field,
And wise men seek defence in flight,
The doom of poets is to yield.
No more my heart th' enchantress braves,
I'm now in Beauty's prison hid;
The Sprite and I are fellow-slaves,
And I, too, sing whene'er I'm bid.

WHEN TO SAD MUSIC SILENT YOU LISTEN.

When to sad Music silent you listen,
And tears on those eyelids tremble like dew,
Oh, then there dwells in those eyes as they glisten
A sweet holy charm that mirth never knew.
But when some lively strain resounding
Lights up the sunshine of joy on that brow,
Then the young rein-deer o'er the hills bounding
Was ne'er in its mirth so graceful as thou.

When on the skies at midnight thou gazest,
A lustre so pure thy features then wear,
That, when to some star that bright eye thou raisest,
We feel 'tis thy home thou'rt looking for there.
But, when the word for the gay dance is given,
So buoyant thy spirit, so heartfelt thy mirth,
Oh then we exclaim, "Ne'er leave earth for heaven,
"But linger still here, to make heaven of earth."

THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS.

Fly swift, my light gazelle,
To her who now lies waking,
To hear thy silver bell
The midnight silence breaking.
And, when thou com'st, with gladsome feet,
Beneath her lattice springing,
Ah, well she'll know how sweet
The words of love thou'rt bringing.

Yet, no—not words, for they
But half can tell love's feeling;
Sweet flowers alone can say
What passion fears revealing.
A once bright rose's wither'd leaf,
A tow'ring lily broken,—
Oh these may paint a grief
No words could e'er have spoken.

Not such, my gay gazelle,
The wreath thou speedest over
Yon moonlight dale, to tell
My lady how I love her.
And, what to her will sweeter be
Than gems the richest, rarest,
From Truth's immortal tree[1]
One fadeless leaf thou bearest.

THE DAWN IS BREAKING O'ER US.

The dawn is breaking o'er us,
See, heaven hath caught its hue!
We've day's long light before us,
What sport shall we pursue?
The hunt o'er hill and lea?
The sail o'er summer sea?
Oh let not hour so sweet
Unwing'd by pleasure fleet.
The dawn is breaking o'er us,
See, heaven hath caught its hue!
We've day's long light before us,
What sport shall we pursue?

But see, while we're deciding,
What morning sport to play,
The dial's hand is gliding,
And morn hath pass'd away!
Ah, who'd have thought that noon
Would o'er us steal so soon,—
That morn's sweet hour of prime
Would last so short a time?

[1] The tree, called in the East, Amrita, or the Immortal.

But come, we've day before us,
Still heaven looks bright and blue;
Quick, quick, ere eve comes o'er us,
What sport shall we pursue?

Alas! why thus delaying?
We're now at evening's hour;
Its farewell beam is playing
O'er hill and wave and bower.

That light we thought would last,
Behold, ev'n now, 'tis past;
And all our morning dreams
Have vanish'd with its beams!
But come! 'twere vain to borrow
Sad lessons from this lay,
For man will be to-morrow —
Just what he's been to-day.

SONGS FROM THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY.

HERE AT THY TOMB.[1]

BY MELEAGER.

Here, at thy tomb, these tears I shed,
Tears, which though vainly now they roll,
Are all love hath to give the dead,
And wept o'er thee with all love's soul; —

Wept in remembrance of that light,
Which nought on earth, without thee, gives,
Hope of my heart! now quench'd in night,
But dearer, dead, than aught that lives.

Where is she? where the blooming bough
That once my life's sole lustre made?
Torn off by death, 'tis with'ring now,
And all its flow'rs in dust are laid.

Oh earth! that to thy matron breast
Hast taken all those angel charms,
Gently, I pray thee, let her rest, —
Gently, as in a mother's arms.

SALE OF CUPID.[2]

BY MELEAGER.

Who'll buy a little boy? Look, yonder is he,
Fast asleep, sly rogue, on his mother's knee;
So bold a young imp 'tisn't safe to keep,
So I'll part with him now, while he's sound asleep.
See his arch little nose, how sharp 'tis curl'd,
His wings, too, ev'n in sleep unfurl'd;
And those fingers, which still ever ready are found
For mirth or for mischief, to tickle, or wound.

He'll try with his tears your heart to beguile,
But never you mind — he's laughing all the while;
For little he cares, so he has his own whim,
And weeping or laughing are all one to him.
His eye is as keen as the lightning's flash,
His tongue like the red bolt quick and rash;
And so savage is he, that his own dear mother
Is scarce more safe in his hands than another.

In short, to sum up this darling's praise,
He's a downright pest in all sorts of ways;
And if any one wants such an imp to employ,
He shall have a dead bargain of this little boy.
But see, the boy wakes — his bright tears flow —
His eyes seem to ask could I sell him? oh no,
Sweet child no, no — though so naughty you be,
You shall live evermore with my Lesbia and me.

TO WEAVE A GARLAND FOR THE ROSE.[3]

BY PAUL, THE SILENTIARY.

To weave a garland for the rose,
And think thus crown'd 'twould lovelier be,

1 Δακρυα σοι και νερθε δια χθονος, Ηλιοδωρα.
Ap. Brunck.

2 Πωλεισθω, και ματρος ετ' εν κολποισι καθευδων.
Ap. Brunck. *Analect.* xcv.

3 Ουτε ῥοδων στεφανων επιδευεσαι, ουτε συ πεπλων.
Ap. Brunck. xvii.

Were far less vain than to suppose
That silks and gems add grace to thee.
Where is the pearl whose orient lustre
Would not, beside thee, look less bright?
What gold could match the glossy cluster
Of those young ringlets full of light?

Bring from the land, where fresh it gleams,
The bright blue gem of India's mine,
And see how soon, though bright its beams,
'Twill pale before one glance of thine:
Those lips, too, when their sounds have blest us
With some divine, mellifluous air,
Who would not say that Beauty's cestus
Had let loose all its witch'ries there?[1]

Here, to this conqu'ring host of charms
I now give up my spell-bound heart,
Nor blush to yield ev'n Reason's arms,
When thou her bright-ey'd conqu'ror art.
Thus to the wind all fears are given;
Henceforth those eyes alone I see,
Where Hope, as in her own blue heaven,
Sits beck'ning me to bliss and thee!

WHY DOES SHE SO LONG DELAY?[2]

BY PAUL, THE SILENTIARY.

Why does she so long delay?
Night is waning fast away;
Thrice have I my lamp renew'd,
Watching here in solitude.
Where can she so long delay?
Where, so long delay?

Vainly now have two lamps shone;
See the third is nearly gone:[3]
Oh that Love would, like the ray
Of that weary lamp, decay!
But no, alas, it burns still on,
Still, still, burns on.

Gods, how oft the traitress dear
Swore, by Venus, she'd be here!
But to one so false as she
What is man or deity?
Neither doth this proud one fear,—
No, neither doth she fear.

1 —— και ἡ μελιφυρτος ἑκεινη
Ηθεος ἀρμονιη, κιστος ἑφυ Παφιης.

2 Δηθυνει Κλεοφαντις.
Ap. Brunck. xxviii.

3 ὁ δε τριτος αρχεται ηδε
Λυχνος ὑποκλαζειν.

TWIN'ST THOU WITH LOFTY WREATH THY BROW?[4]

BY PAUL, THE SILENTIARY.

Twin'st thou with lofty wreath thy brow?
Such glory then thy beauty sheds,
I almost think, while aw'd I bow,
'Tis Rhea's self before me treads.
Be what thou wilt,—this heart
Adores whate'er thou art!

Dost thou thy loosen'd ringlets leave,
Like sunny waves to wander free?
Then, such a chain of charms they weave,
As draws my inmost soul from me.
Do what thou wilt,—I must
Be charm'd by all thou dost!

Ev'n when, enwrapp'd in silv'ry veils,[5]
Those sunny locks elude the sight,—
Oh, not ev'n then their glory fails
To haunt me with its unseen light.
Change as thy beauty may,
It charms in every way.

For, thee the Graces still attend,
Presiding o'er each new attire,
And lending ev'ry dart they send
Some new, peculiar touch of fire.
Be what thou wilt,—this heart
Adores whate'er thou art!

WHEN THE SAD WORD.[6]

BY PAUL, THE SILENTIARY.

When the sad word, "Adieu," from my lip is nigh falling,
And with it, Hope passes away,
Ere the tongue hath half breathed it, my fond heart recalling
That fatal farewell, bids me stay.
For oh! 'tis a penance so weary
One hour from thy presence to be,
That death to this soul were less dreary,
Less dark than long absence from thee.

4 Κεκευφαλαι σφιγγουσι την τριχα;
Ap. Brunck. xxxiv.

5 Αργεννοις οθονησι κατηρεα βοστρυχα κευθεις.

6 Σωζεο σοι μελλων ενεστιν.
Ap. Brunck. xxxix.

Thy beauty, like Day, o'er the dull world breaking,
Brings life to the heart it shines o'er,
And, in mine, a new feeling of happiness waking
Made light what was darkness before.
But mute is the Day's sunny glory,
While thine hath a voice [1], on whose breath,
More sweet than the Syren's sweet story,[2]
My hopes hang, through life and through death!

MY MOPSA IS LITTLE.[3]

BY PHILODEMUS.

My Mopsa is little, my Mopsa is brown,
But her cheek is as smooth as the peach's soft down,
And, for blushing, no rose can come near her;
In short, she has woven such nets round my heart,
That I ne'er from my dear little Mopsa can part,—
Unless I can find one that's dearer.

Her voice hath a music that dwells on the ear,
And her eye from its orb gives a daylight so clear,
That I'm dazzled whenever I meet her;
Her ringlets, so curly, are Cupid's own net,
And her lips, oh their sweetness I ne'er shall forget—
Till I light upon lips that are sweeter.

But 'tis not her beauty that charms me alone,
'Tis her mind, 'tis that language whose eloquent tone
From the depths of the grave could revive one:
In short, here I swear, that if death were her doom,
I would instantly join my dead love in the tomb—
Unless I could meet with a live one.

STILL, LIKE DEW IN SILENCE FALLING.[4]

BY MELEAGER.

Still, like dew in silence falling,
Drops for thee the nightly tear;
Still that voice the past recalling,
Dwells, like echo, on my ear,
Still, still!

Day and night the spell hangs o'er me,
Here for ever fix'd thou art;
As thy form first shone before me,
So 'tis graven on this heart,
Deep, deep!

Love, oh Love, whose bitter sweetness,
Dooms me to this lasting pain,
Thou who cam'st with so much fleetness,
Why so slow to go again?[5]
Why? why?

UP, SAILOR BOY, 'TIS DAY.

Up, sailor boy, 'tis day!
The west wind blowing,
The spring tide flowing,
Summon thee hence away.
Didst thou not hear yon soaring swallow sing?
Chirp, chirp, — in every note he seem'd to say
'Tis Spring, 'tis Spring.
Up, boy, away,—
Who'd stay on land to-day?
The very flowers
Would from their bowers
Delight to wing away!

Leave languid youths to pine
On silken pillows
But be the billows
Of the great deep thine.
Hark, to the sail the breeze sings, "Let us fly;"
While soft the sail, replying to the breeze,
Says, with a yielding sigh,
"Yes, where you please."
Up, boy! the wind, the ray,
The blue sky o'er thee,
The deep before thee,
All cry aloud, "Away!"

IN MYRTLE WREATHS.

BY ALCÆUS.

In myrtle wreaths my votive sword I'll cover,
Like them of old whose one immortal blow
Struck off the galling fetters that hung over
Their own bright land, and laid her tyrant low.

1 Ηματι γαρ σεθ φαγγος ὁμοιον. αλλα το μεν που Αφθογγον.

2 Συ δ' εμοι και το λαλημα φερεις Κεινο, το Σειρηνων γλυκυειρωτερον.

3 Μικκη και μελανευσα Φιλαινιον. Ap. BRUNCK. x.

4 Αιει μοι δυνει μεν εν ουασιν ηχος Ερωτος. Ap. BRUNCK. Iiii.

5 Ω πτανοι, μη και ποτ' εφιπτασθαι μεν, Ερωτες, Οιδατ', αποστηραι δ' ουδ' οσον ισχυετε.

Yes, lov'd Harmodius, thou'rt undying;
Still midst the brave and free,
In isles, o'er ocean lying,
Thy home shall ever be.

In myrtle leaves my sword shall hide its lightning,
Like his, the youth, whose ever-glorious blade
Leap'd forth like flame, the midnight banquet bright'ning,
And in the dust a despot victim laid.
Blest youths, how bright in Freedom's story
Your wedded names shall be;
A tyrant's death your glory,
Your meed, a nation free!

UNPUBLISHED SONGS,

ETC.

ASK NOT IF STILL I LOVE.

Ask not if still I love,
Too plain these eyes have told thee;
Too well their tears must prove
How near and dear I hold thee.
If, where the brightest shine,
To see no form but thine,
To feel that earth can show
No bliss above thee,—
If this be love, then know
That thus, that thus, I love thee.

'Tis not in pleasure's idle hour
That thou canst know affection's pow'r.
No, try its strength in grief or pain;
Attempt, as now, its bonds to sever,
Thou'lt find true love's a chain
That binds for ever!

Yet still, though false, believe
That I adore thee, yes, still adore thee.
Think'st thou that aught but death could end
A tie not falsehood's self can rend?
No, when alone, far off I die,
No more to see, no more caress thee,
Ev'n then, my life's last sigh
Shall be to bless thee, yes, still to bless thee.

DEAR? YES.

Dear? yes, though mine no more,
Ev'n this but makes thee dearer;
And love, since hope is o'er,
But draws thee nearer.

Change as thou wilt to me,
The same thy charm must be;
New loves may come to weave
Their witch'ry o'er thee,

UNBIND THEE, LOVE.

Unbind thee, love, unbind thee, love,
From those dark ties unbind thee;
Though fairest hand the chain hath wove,
Too long its links have twin'd thee.
Away from earth!—thy wings were made
In yon mid-sky to hover,
With earth beneath their dove-like shade,
And heav'n all radiant over.

Awake thee, boy, awake thee, boy,
Too long thy soul is sleeping;
And thou may'st from this minute's joy
Wake to eternal weeping.
Oh, think, this world is not for thee;
Though hard its links to sever;
Though sweet and bright and dear they be,
Break, or thou'rt lost for ever.

THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE.

(A Buffo Song.)

There's something strange, I know not what,
Come o'er me,
Some phantom I've for ever got
Before me.
I look on high, and in the sky
'Tis shining;
On earth, its light with all things bright
Seems twining.
In vain I try this goblin's spells
To sever;
Go where I will, it round me dwells
For ever.

And then what tricks by day and night
It plays me;
In ev'ry shape the wicked sprite
Waylays me.
Sometimes like two bright eyes of blue
'Tis glancing;
Sometimes like feet, in slippers neat,
Comes dancing.
By whispers round of every sort
I'm taunted.
Never was mortal man, in short,
So haunted.

NOT FROM THEE.

Not from thee the wound should come,
No, not from thee.
I care not what, or whence, my doom,
So not from thee!
Cold triumph! first to make
This heart thy own;
And then the mirror break
Where fix'd thou shin'st alone.
Not from thee the wound should come,
Oh, not from thee.
I care not what, or whence, my doom,
So not from thee.

Yet no—my lips that wish recall;
From thee, from thee—
If ruin o'er this head must fall,
'Twill welcome be.
Here to the blade I bare
This faithful heart;
Wound deep—thou'lt find that there,
In every pulse thou art.
Yes from thee I'll bear it all:
If ruin be
The doom that o'er this heart must fall,
'Twere sweet from thee

GUESS, GUESS.

I love a maid, a mystic maid,
Whose form no eyes but mine can see;
She comes in light, she comes in shade,
And beautiful in both is she.
Her shape in dreams I oft behold,
And oft she whispers in my ear
Such words as when to others told,
Awake the sigh, or wring the tear;—
Then guess, guess, who she,
The lady of my love, may be.

I find the lustre of her brow,
Come o'er me in my darkest ways;
And feel as if her voice, ev'n now,
Were echoing far off my lays.
There is no scene of joy or woe
But she doth gild with influence bright;
And shed o'er all so rich a glow,
As makes ev'n tears seem full of light:
Then guess, guess, who she,
The lady of my love, may be.

WHEN LOVE, WHO RUL'D.

When Love, who rul'd as Admiral o'er
His rosy mother's isles of light,
Was cruising off the Paphian shore,
A sail at sunset hove in sight.
"A chase, a chase! my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Aloft the winged sailors sprung,
And, swarming up the mast like bees,
The snow-white sails expanding flung,
Like broad magnolias to the breeze.
"Yo ho, yo ho, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

The chase was o'er—the bark was caught,
The winged crew her freight explor'd;

And found 'twas just as Love had thought,
For all was contraband aboard.
" A prize, a prize, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Safe stow'd in many a package there,
And labell'd slyly o'er, as " Glass,"
Were lots of all th' illegal ware,
Love's Custom-House forbids to pass.
" O'erhaul, o'erhaul, my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

False curls they found, of every hue,
With rosy blushes ready made;
And teeth of ivory, good as new,
For veterans in the smiling trade.
" Ho ho, ho ho, my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Mock sighs, too,—kept in bags for use,
Like breezes bought of Lapland seers,—
Lay ready here to be let loose,
When wanted, in young spinsters' ears.
" Ha ha, ha ha, my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

False papers next on board were found,
Sham invoices of flames and darts,
Professedly for Paphos bound,
But meant for Hymen's golden marts.
" For shame, for shame, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Nay, still to every fraud awake,
Those pirates all Love's signals knew,
And hoisted oft his flag, to make
Rich wards and heiresses *bring-to.*[1]
" A foe, a foe, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

" This must not be," the boy exclaims,
" In vain I rule the Paphian seas,
" If Love's and Beauty's sovereign names
" Are lent to cover frauds like these.
" Prepare, prepare, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Each Cupid stood with lighted match—
A broadside struck the smuggling foe,
And swept the whole unhallow'd batch
Of falsehood to the depths below.
" Huzza, huzza! my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

[1] " To BRING-TO, to check the course of a ship."—*Falconer.*

STILL THOU FLIEST.

STILL thou fliest, and still I woo thee,
Lovely phantom,—all in vain;
Restless ever, my thoughts pursue thee,
Fleeting ever, thou mock'st their pain.
Such doom, of old, that youth betided,
Who woo'd, he thought, some angel's charms,
But found a cloud that from him glided,—
As thou dost from these out-stretch'd arms.

Scarce I've said, " How fair thou shinest,"
Ere thy light hath vanish'd by;
And 'tis when thou look'st divinest
Thou art still more sure to fly.
Ev'n as the lightning, that, dividing
The clouds of night, saith, " Look on me,"
Then flits again, its splendour hiding,—
Ev'n such the glimpse I catch of thee.

THEN FIRST FROM LOVE.

THEN first from Love, in Nature's bow'rs,
Did Painting learn her fairy skill,
And cull the hues of loveliest flow'rs,
To picture woman lovelier still.
For vain was every radiant hue,
Till Passion lent a soul to art,
And taught the painter, ere he drew,
To fix the model in his heart.

Thus smooth his toil awhile went on,
Till, lo, one touch his art defies;
The brow, the lip, the blushes shone,
But who could dare to paint those eyes?
'Twas all in vain the painter strove;
So turning to that boy divine,
" Here take," he said, " the pencil, Love,
" No hand should paint such eyes, but thine."

HUSH, SWEET LUTE.

HUSH, sweet Lute, thy songs remind me
Of past joys, now turn'd to pain;
Of ties that long have ceas'd to bind me,
But whose burning marks remain.
In each tone, some echo falleth
On my ear of joys gone by;

Ev'ry note some dream recalleth
Of bright hopes but born to die.

Yet, sweet Lute, though pain it bring me,
Once more let thy numbers thrill;
Though death were in the strain they sing me,
I must woo its anguish still.
Since no time can e'er recover
Love's sweet light when once 'tis set, —
Better to weep such pleasures over,
Than smile o'er any left us yet.

BRIGHT MOON.

Bright moon, that high in heav'n art shining,
All smiles, as if within thy bower to-night
Thy own Endymion lay reclining,
And thou would'st wake him with a kiss of light! —
By all the bliss thy beam discovers,
By all those visions far too bright for day,
Which dreaming bards and waking lovers
Behold, this night, beneath thy ling'ring ray, —

I pray thee, queen of that bright heaven,
Quench not to-night thy love-lamp in the sea,
Till Anthe, in this bow'r, hath given
Beneath thy beam, her long-vow'd kiss to me.
Guide hither, guide her steps benighted,
Ere thou, sweet moon, thy bashful crescent hide;
Let Love but in this bow'r be lighted,
Then shroud in darkness all the world beside.

LONG YEARS HAVE PASS'D.

Long years have pass'd, old friend, since we
First met in life's young day;
And friends long lov'd by thee and me,
Since then have dropp'd away; —
But enough remain to cheer us on,
And sweeten, when thus we're met,
The glass we fill to the many gone,
And the few who're left us yet.

Our locks, old friend, now thinly grow,
And some hang white and chill;
While some, like flow'rs 'mid Autumn's snow,
Retain youth's colour still.
And so, in our hearts, though one by one,
Youth's sunny hopes have set,
Thank heav'n, not all their light is gone, —
We've some to cheer us yet.

Then here's to thee, old friend, and long
May thou and I thus meet,
To brighten still with wine and song
This short life, ere it fleet.
And still as death comes stealing on,
Let's never, old friend, forget,
Ev'n while we sigh o'er blessings gone,
How many are left us yet.

DREAMING FOR EVER.

Dreaming for ever, vainly dreaming,
Life to the last pursues its flight;
Day hath its visions fairly beaming,
But false as those of night.
The one illusion, the other real,
But both the same brief dreams at last;
And when we grasp the bliss ideal,
Soon as it shines, 'tis past.

Here, then, by this dim lake reposing,
Calmly I'll watch, while light and gloom
Flit o'er its face till night is closing —
Emblem of life's short doom!
But though, by turns, thus dark and shining,
'Tis still unlike man's changeful day,
Whose light returns not, once declining,
Whose cloud, once come, will stay.

THOUGH LIGHTLY SOUNDS THE SONG I SING.

A Song of the Alps.

Though lightly sounds the song I sing to thee,
Though like the lark's its soaring music be,
Thou'lt find ev'n here some mournful note that tells
How near such April joy to weeping dwells.
'Tis 'mong the gayest scenes that oft'nest steal
Those sadd'ning thoughts we fear, yet love to feel;
And music never half so sweet appears,
As when her mirth forgets itself in tears.

Then say not thou this Alpine song is gay —
It comes from hearts that, like their mountain-lay,
Mix joy with pain, and oft when pleasure's breath
Most warms the surface, feel most sad beneath.

The very beam in which the snow-wreath wears
Its gayest smile is that which wins its tears, —
And passion's pow'r can never lend the glow
Which wakens bliss, without some touch of woe.

THE RUSSIAN LOVER.

FLEETLY o'er the moonlight snows
Speed we to my lady's bow'r;
Swift our sledge as lightning goes,
Nor shall stop till morning's hour.
Bright, my steed, the northern star
Lights us from yon jewell'd skies;
But, to greet us, brighter far,
Morn shall bring my lady's eyes.

Lovers, lull'd in sunny bow'rs,
Sleeping out their dream of time,
Know not half the bliss that's ours,
In this snowy, icy clime.
Like yon star that livelier gleams
From the frosty heavens around,
Love himself the keener beams
When with snows of coyness crown'd.

Fleet then on, my merry steed,
Bound, my sledge, o'er hill and dale; —
What can match a lover's speed?
See, 'tis daylight, breaking pale!
Brightly hath the northern star
Lit us from yon radiant skies;
But, behold, how brighter far
Yonder shine my lady's eyes!

LALLA ROOKH.

TO

SAMUEL ROGERS, ESQ.

THIS EASTERN ROMANCE IS INSCRIBED,

BY HIS VERY GRATEFUL AND AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,

THOMAS MOORE.

May 19. 1817.

LALLA ROOKH.

IN the eleventh year of the reign of Aurungzebe, Abdalla, King of the Lesser Bucharia, a lineal descendant from the Great Zingis, having abdicated the throne in favour of his son, set out on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Prophet; and, passing into India through the delightful valley of Cashmere, rested for a short time at Delhi on his way. He was entertained by Aurungzebe in a style of magnificent hospitality, worthy alike of the visiter and the host, and was afterwards escorted with the same splendour to Surat, where he embarked for Arabia.[1] During the stay of the Royal Pilgrim at Delhi, a marriage was agreed upon between the Prince, his son, and the youngest daughter of the Emperor, LALLA ROOKH[2]; — a Princess described by the poets of her time as more beautiful than Leila[3], Shirine[4], Dewildé[5], or any of those heroines whose names and loves embellish the songs of Persia and Hindostan. It was intended that the nuptials should be celebrated at Cashmere; where the young King, as soon as the cares of empire would permit, was to meet, for the first time, his lovely bride,

[1] These particulars of the visit of the King of Bucharia to Aurungzebe are found in *Dow's History of Hindostan*, vol. iii. p. 392.

[2] Tulip cheek.

[3] The mistress of Mejnoun, upon whose story so many Romances in all the languages of the East are founded.

[4] For the loves of this celebrated beauty with Khosrou and with Ferhad, see *D'Herbelot, Gibbon, Oriental Collections*, &c.

[5] "The history of the loves of Dewildé and Chizer, the son of the Emperor Alla, is written in an elegant poem, by the noble Chusero." — *Ferishta.*

and, after a few months' repose in that enchanting valley, conduct her over the snowy hills into Bucharia.

The day of LALLA ROOKH's departure from Delhi was as splendid as sunshine and pageantry could make it. The bazaars and baths were all covered with the richest tapestry; hundreds of gilded barges upon the Jumna floated with their banners shining in the water; while through the streets groups of beautiful children went strewing the most delicious flowers around, as in that Persian festival called the Scattering of the Roses[1]; till every part of the city was as fragrant as if a caravan of musk from Khoten had passed through it. The Princess, having taken leave of her kind father, who at parting hung a cornelian of Yemen round her neck, on which was inscribed a verse from the Koran, and having sent a considerable present to the Fakirs, who kept up the Perpetual Lamp in her sister's tomb, meekly ascended the palankeen prepared for her; and, while Aurungzebe stood to take a last look from his balcony, the procession moved slowly on the road to Lahore.

Seldom had the Eastern world seen a cavalcade so superb. From the gardens in the suburbs to the Imperial palace, it was one unbroken line of splendour. The gallant appearance of the Rajahs and Mogul lords, distinguished by those insignia of the Emperor's favour[2], the feathers of the egret of Cashmere in their turbans, and the small silver-rimm'd kettle drums at the bows of their saddles; —the costly armour of their cavaliers, who vied, on this occasion, with the guards of the great Keder Khan[3], in the brightness of their silver battle-axes and the massiness of their maces of gold; —the glittering of the gilt pine-apples[4] on the tops of the palankeens; —the embroidered trappings of the elephants, bearing on their backs small turrets, in the shape of little antique temples, within which the Ladies of LALLA ROOKH lay as it were enshrined; —the rose-coloured veils of the Princess's own sumptuous litter[5], at the front of which a fair young female slave sat fanning her through the curtains, with feathers of the Argus pheasant's wing[6]; —and the lovely troop of Tartarian and Cashmerian maids of honour, whom the young King had sent to accompany his bride, and who rode on each side of the litter, upon small Arabian horses; —all was brilliant, tasteful, and magnificent, and pleased even the critical and fastidious FADLADEEN, Great Nazir or Chamberlain of the Haram, who was borne in his palankeen immediately after the Princess, and considered himself not the least important personage of the pageant.

FADLADEEN was a judge of every thing, —from the pencilling of a Circassian's eyelids to the deepest questions of science and literature; from the mixture of a conserve of rose-leaves to the composition of an epic poem: and such influence had his opinion upon the various tastes of the day, that all the cooks and poets of Delhi stood in awe of him. His political conduct and opinions were founded upon that line of Sadi, — "Should the Prince at noon-day say, It is night, declare that you behold the moon and stars." — And his zeal for religion, of which Aurungzebe was a munificent protector[7], was about as disinterested as that

[1] Gul Reazee.

[2] "One mark of honour or knighthood bestowed by the Emperor is the permission to wear a small kettledrum at the bows of their saddles, which at first was invented for the training of hawks, and to call them to the lure, and is worn in the field by all sportsmen to that end." — *Fryer*'s Travels.

"Those on whom the King has conferred the privilege must wear an ornament of jewels on the right side of the turban, surmounted by a high plume of the feathers of a kind of egret. This bird is found only in Cashmere, and the feathers are carefully collected for the King, who bestows them on his nobles." — *Elphinstone*'s Account of Caubul.

[3] "Khedar Khan, the Khakan, or King of Turquestan, beyond the Gihon (at the end of the eleventh century), whenever he appeared abroad was preceded by seven hundred horsemen with silver battle-axes, and was followed by an equal number bearing maces of gold. He was a great patron of poetry, and it was he who used to preside at public exercises of genius, with four basins of gold and silver by him to distribute among the poets who excelled." — *Richardson*'s Dissertation prefixed to his Dictionary.

[4] "The kubdeh, a large golden knob, generally in the shape of a pine-apple, on the top of the canopy over the litter or palanquin." — *Scott*'s Notes on the Bahardanush.

[5] In the Poem of Zohair, in the Moallakat, there is the following lively description of "a company of maidens seated on camels."

"They are mounted in carriages covered with costly awnings, and with rose-coloured veils, the linings of which have the hue of crimson Andem-wood.

"When they ascend from the bosom of the vale, they sit forward on the saddle-cloth, with every mark of a voluptuous gaiety.

"Now, when they have reached the brink of yon blue-gushing rivulet, they fix the poles of their tents like the Arab with a settled mansion."

[6] See *Bernier*'s description of the attendants on Rauchanara-Begum, in her progress to Cashmere.

[7] This hypocritical Emperor would have made a worthy associate of certain Holy Leagues. — "He held the cloak of religion (says Dow) between his actions and the vulgar; and impiously thanked the Divinity for a success which he owed to his own wickedness. When he was murdering and persecuting his brothers and their families, he was building a magnificent mosque at Delhi, as an offering to God for his assistance to him in the civil wars. He acted as high priest at the consecration of this temple; and made a practice of attending divine service there, in the humble dress of a Fakeer. But when he lifted one hand to the Divinity, he, with the other, signed warrants for the assassination of his relations." —

of the goldsmith who fell in love with the diamond eyes of the idol of Jaghernaut.[1]

During the first days of their journey, LALLA ROOKH, who had passed all her life within the shadow of the Royal Gardens of Delhi[2], found enough in the beauty of the scenery through which they passed to interest her mind, and delight her imagination; and when at evening, or in the heat of the day, they turned off from the high road to those retired and romantic places which had been selected for her encampments,—sometimes on the banks of a small rivulet, as clear as the waters of the Lake of Pearl[3]; sometimes under the sacred shade of a Banyan tree, from which the view opened upon a glade covered with antelopes; and often in those hidden, embowered spots, described by one from the Isles of the West[4], as "places of melancholy, delight, and safety, where all the company around was wild peacocks and turtle-doves;"—she felt a charm in these scenes, so lovely and so new to her, which, for a time, made her indifferent to every other amusement. But LALLA ROOKH was young, and the young love variety; nor could the conversation of her Ladies and the Great Chamberlain, FADLADEEN, (the only persons, of course, admitted to her pavilion), sufficiently enliven those many vacant hours, which were devoted neither to the pillow nor the palankeen. There was a little Persian slave who sung sweetly to the Vina, and who, now and then, lulled the Princess to sleep with the ancient ditties of her country, about the loves of Wamak and Ezra[5], the fair-haired Zal and his mistress Rodahver[6]; not forgetting the combat of Rustam with the terrible White Demon.[7] At other times she was amused by those graceful dancing-girls of Delhi, who had been permitted by the Bramins of the Great Pagoda to attend her, much to the horror of the good Mussulman FADLADEEN, who could see nothing graceful or agreeable in idolaters, and to whom the very tinkling of their golden anklets[8] was an abomination.

But these and many other diversions were repeated till they lost all their charm, and the nights and noon-days were beginning to move heavily, when, at length, it was recollected that, among the attendants sent by the bridegroom, was a young poet of Cashmere, much celebrated throughout the Valley for his manner of reciting the Stories of the East, on whom his Royal Master had conferred the privilege of being admitted to the pavilion of the Princess, that he might help to beguile the tediousness of the journey by some of his most agreeable recitals. At the mention of a poet, FADLADEEN elevated his critical eyebrows, and, having refreshed his faculties with a dose of that delicious opium[9] which is distilled from the black poppy of the Thebais, gave orders for the minstrel to be forthwith introduced into the presence.

The Princess, who had once in her life seen a poet from behind the screens of gauze in her Father's hall, and had conceived from that specimen no very favourable ideas of the Caste,

History of Hindostan, vol. iii. p. 335. See also the curious letter of Aurungzebe, given in the *Oriental Collections*, vol. i. p. 320.

[1] "The idol at Jaghernat has two fine diamonds for eyes. No goldsmith is suffered to enter the Pagoda, one having stole one of these eyes, being locked up all night with the Idol."—*Tavernier*.

[2] See a description of these royal Gardens in "An Account of the present state of Delhi, by Lieut. W. Franklin."—*Asiat. Research*. vol. iv. p. 417.

[3] "In the neighbourhood is Notte Gill, or the Lake of Pearl, which receives this name from its pellucid water."—*Pennant*'s Hindostan.

"Nasir Jung encamped in the vicinity of the Lake of Tonoor, amused himself with sailing on that clear and beautiful water, and gave it the fanciful name of Motee Talah, 'the Lake of Pearls,' which it still retains."—*Wilks*'s South of India.

[4] Sir Thomas Roe, Ambassador from James I. to Jehanguire.

[5] "The romance Wemakweazra, written in Persian verse, which contains the loves of Wamak and Ezra, two celebrated lovers who lived before the time of Mahomet."—*Note on the Oriental Tales*.

[6] Their amour is recounted in the Shah-Namèh of Ferdousi; and there is much beauty in the passage which describes the slaves of Rodahver sitting on the bank of the river and throwing flowers into the stream, in order to draw the attention of the young Hero who is encamped on the opposite side.—See *Champion*'s translation.

[7] Rustam is the Hercules of the Persians. For the particulars of his victory over the Sepeed Deeve, or White Demon, see *Oriental Collections*, vol. ii. p. 45.—Near the city of Shirauz is an immense quadrangular monument, in commemoration of this combat, called the Kelaat-i-Deev Sepeed, or Castle of the White Giant, which Father Angelo, in his Gazophilacium Persicum, p. 127., declares to have been the most memorable monument of antiquity which he had seen in Persia.—See *Ouseley*'s Persian Miscellanies.

[8] "The women of the Idol, or dancing girls of the Pagoda, have little golden bells, fastened to their feet, the soft harmonious tinkling of which vibrates in unison with the exquisite melody of their voices."—*Maurice*'s Indian Antiquities.

"The Arabian courtesans, like the Indian women, have little golden bells fastened round their legs, neck, and elbows, to the sound of which they dance before the King. The Arabian princesses wear golden rings on their fingers, to which little bells are suspended, as well as in the flowing tresses of their hair, that their superior rank may be known, and they themselves receive in passing the homage due to them.—See *Calmet*'s Dictionary, art. Bells.

[9] "Abou-Tige, ville de la Thebaïde, où il croît beaucoup de pavot noir, dont se fait le meilleur opium."—*D'Herbelot*.

expected but little in this new exhibition to interest her;—she felt inclined, however, to alter her opinion on the very first appearance of FERAMORZ. He was a youth about LALLA ROOKH's own age, and graceful as that idol of women, Crishna[1],—such as he appears to their young imaginations, heroic, beautiful, breathing music from his very eyes, and exalting the religion of his worshippers into love. His dress was simple, yet not without some marks of costliness; and the Ladies of the Princess were not long in discovering that the cloth, which encircled his high Tartarian cap, was of the most delicate kind that the shawl-goats of Tibet supply.[2] Here and there, too, over his vest, which was confined by a flowered girdle of Kashan, hung strings of fine pearl, disposed with an air of studied negligence;—nor did the exquisite embroidery of his sandals escape the observation of these fair critics; who, however they might give way to FADLADEEN upon the unimportant topics of religion and government, had the spirit of martyrs in every thing relating to such momentous matters as jewels and embroidery.

For the purpose of relieving the pauses of recitation by music, the young Cashmerian held in his hand a kitar;—such as, in old times, the Arab maids of the West used to listen to by moonlight in the gardens of the Alhambra—and, having premised, with much humility, that the story he was about to relate was founded on the adventures of that Veiled Prophet of Khorassan[3], who, in the year of the Hegira 163, created such alarm throughout the Eastern Empire, made an obeisance to the Princess, and thus began:—

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[1] The Indian Apollo.—"He and the three Rámas are described as youths of perfect beauty; and the princesses of Hindustán were all passionately in love with Chrishna, who continues to this hour the darling God of the Indian women."—*Sir W. Jones*, on the Gods of Greece, Italy, and India.

[2] See *Turner's* Embassy for a description of this animal, "the most beautiful among the whole tribe of goats." The material for the shawls (which is carried to Cashmere) is found next the skin.

[3] For the real history of this Impostor, whose original name was Hakem ben Haschém, and who was called Mocanna from the veil of silver gauze (or, as others say, golden) which he always wore, see *D'Herbelot*.

[4] Khorassan signifies, in the old Persian language, Province or Region of the Sun.—*Sir W. Jones*.

[5] "The fruits of Meru are finer than those of any other place; and one cannot see in any other city such palaces with groves, and streams, and gardens."—*Ebn Haukal's* Geography.

[6] One of the royal cities of Khorassan.

THE

VEILED PROPHET OF KHORASSAN.[4]

IN that delightful Province of the Sun,
The first of Persian lands he shines upon,
Where all the loveliest children of his beam,
Flow'rets and fruits, blush over ev'ry stream,[5]
And, fairest of all streams, the MURGA roves
Among MEROU's[6] bright palaces and groves;—
There on that throne, to which the blind belief
Of millions rais'd him, sat the Prophet-Chief,
The Great MOKANNA. O'er his features hung
The Veil, the Silver Veil, which he had flung
In mercy there, to hide from mortal sight
His dazzling brow, till man could bear its light.
For, far less luminous, his votaries said,
Were ev'n the gleams, miraculously shed
O'er MOUSSA'S[7] cheek[8], when down the Mount he trod,
All glowing from the presence of his God!

On either side, with ready hearts and hands,
His chosen guard of bold Believers stands;
Young fire-ey'd disputants, who deem their swords,
On points of faith, more eloquent than words;
And such their zeal, there's not a youth with brand
Uplifted there, but, at the Chief's command,
Would make his own devoted heart its sheath,
And bless the lips that doom'd so dear a death!
In hatred to the Caliph's hue of night,[9]
Their vesture, helms and all, is snowy white;
Their weapons various—some equipp'd, for speed,
With javelins of the light Kathaian reed;[10]
Or bows of buffalo horn and shining quivers
Fill'd with the stems[11] that bloom on IRAN'S rivers;[12]
While some, for war's more terrible attacks,
Wield the huge mace and pond'rous battle-axe;
And, as they wave aloft in morning's beam
The milk-white plumage of their helms, they seem

[7] Moses.

[8] "Ses disciples assuroient qu'il se couvroit le visage, pour ne pas éblouir ceux qui l'approchoient par l'éclat de son visage comme Moyse."—*D'Herbelot*.

[9] Black was the colour adopted by the Caliphs of the House of Abbas, in their garments, turbans, and standards.—"Il faut remarquer ici touchant les habits blancs des disciples de Hakem, que la couleur des habits, des coiffures et des étendarts des Khalifes Abassides étant la noire, ce chef de Rebelles ne pouvoit pas choisir une que lui fût plus opposée."—*D'Herbelot*.

[10] "Our dark javelins, exquisitely wrought of Khathaian reeds, slender and delicate."—*Poem of Amru*.

[11] Pichula, used anciently for arrows by the Persians.

[12] The Persians call this plant Gaz. The celebrated shaft of Isfendiar, one of their ancient heroes, was made of it.—"Nothing can be more beautiful than the appearance of this plant in flower during the rains on the banks of rivers, where it is usually interwoven with a lovely twining asclepias."—*Sir W. Jones*, Botanical Observations on Select Indian Plants.

Like a chenar-tree grove[1] when winter throws
O'er all its tufted heads his feath'ring snows.

Between the porphyry pillars, that uphold
The rich moresque-work of the roof of gold,
Aloft the Haram's curtain'd galleries rise,
Where through the silken network, glancing eyes,
From time to time, like sudden gleams that glow
Through autumn clouds, shine o'er the pomp below.—
What impious tongue, ye blushing saints, would dare
To hint that aught but Heav'n hath plac'd you there?
Or that the loves of this light world could bind,
In their gross chain, your Prophet's soaring mind?
No — wrongful thought! — commission'd from above
To people Eden's bowers with shapes of love,
(Creatures so bright, that the same lips and eyes
They wear on earth will serve in Paradise.)
There to recline among Heav'n's native maids,
And crown the' Elect with bliss that never fades—
Well hath the Prophet-Chief his bidding done;
And ev'ry beauteous race beneath the sun,
From those who kneel at BRAHMA's burning founts,[2]
To the fresh nymphs bounding o'er YEMEN's mounts;
From PERSIA's eyes of full and fawn-like ray,
To the small, half-shut glances of KATHAY;[3]
And GEORGIA's bloom, and AZAB's darker smiles,
And the gold ringlets of the Western Isles;
All, all are there; — each Land its flower hath given,
To form that fair young Nursery for Heav'n!

But why this pageant now? this arm'd array?
What triumph crowds the rich Divan to-day
With turban'd heads, of ev'ry hue and race,
Bowing before that veil'd and awful face,
Like tulip-beds[4], of diff'rent shape and dyes,
Bending beneath the' invisible West-wind's sighs!
What new-made mystery now, for Faith to sign,
And blood to seal, as genuine and divine,
What dazzling mimickry of God's own power
Hath the bold Prophet plann'd to grace this hour?

Not such the pageant now, though not less proud;
Yon warrior youth, advancing from the crowd,
With silver bow, with belt of broider'd crape,
And fur-bound bonnet of Bucharian shape,[5]
So fiercely beautiful in form and eye,
Like war's wild planet in a summer sky,
That youth to-day, — a proselyte, worth hordes
Of cooler spirits and less practis'd swords,—
Is come to join, all bravery and belief,
The creed and standard of the heav'n-sent Chief.

Though few his years, the West already knows
Young AZIM's fame; — beyond the' Olympian snows
Ere manhood darken'd o'er his downy cheek,
O'erwhelm'd in fight, and captive to the Greek,
He linger'd there, till peace dissolv'd his chains; —
Oh, who could, ev'n in bondage, tread the plains
Of glorious GREECE, nor feel his spirit rise
Kindling within him? who, with heart and eyes,
Could walk where liberty had been, nor see
The shining foot-prints of her Deity,
Nor feel those godlike breathings in the air,
Which mutely told her spirit had been there?
Not he, that youthful warrior, — no, too well
For his soul's quiet work'd the' awak'ning spell;
And now, returning to his own dear land,
Full of those dreams of good that, vainly grand,
Haunt the young heart, — proud views of human kind,
Of men to Gods exalted and refin'd, —
False views, like that horizon's fair deceit,
Where earth and heav'n but *seem*, alas, to meet! —
Soon as he heard an Arm Divine was rais'd
To right the nations, and behold, emblaz'd
On the white flag, MOKANNA's host unfurl'd,
Those words of sunshine, "Freedom to the World,"
At once his faith, his sword, his soul obey'd
The' inspiring summons; every chosen blade
That fought beneath that banner's sacred text
Seem'd doubly edg'd, for this world and the next
And ne'er did Faith with her smooth bandage bind
Eyes more devoutly willing to be blind,
In virtue's cause; — never was soul inspir'd
With livelier trust in what it most desir'd,
Than his, the' enthusiast there, who kneeling, pal
With pious awe, before that Silver Veil,
Believes the form, to which he bends his knee,
Some pure, redeeming angel, sent to free
This fetter'd world from every bond and stain,
And bring its primal glories back again!

[1] The oriental plane. "The chenar is a delightful tree; its bole is of a fine white and smooth bark; and its foliage, which grows in a tuft at the summit, is of a bright green." — *Morier's* Travels.

[2] The burning fountains of Brahma near Chittogong, esteemed as holy. — *Turner.*

[3] China.

[4] [illegible] be of Turkish extraction and given to the flower on account of its resembling a turb[illegible] — *Beckmann's* History of Inventions.

[5] "The inhabitants of Bucharia wear a round cloth b[illegible] shaped much after the Polish fashion, having a larg[illegible] border. They tie their kaftans about the middle with a [illegible] of a kind of silk crape, several times round the body." [illegible] *count of Independent Tartary, in Pinkerton's Collecti[illegible]*

[6] In the war of the Caliph Mahadi against the F[illegible]

Low as young AZIM knelt, that motley crowd
Of all earth's nations sunk the knee and bow'd,
With shouts of "ALLA!" echoing long and loud;
While high in air, above the Prophet's head,
Hundreds of banners, to the sunbeam spread,
Wav'd, like the wings of the white birds that fan
The flying throne of star-taught SOLIMAN.[1]
Then thus he spoke:—"Stranger, though new the frame
"Thy soul inhabits now, I've track'd its flame
"For many an age[2], in ev'ry chance and change
"Of that existence, through whose varied range,—
"As through a torch-race, where, from hand to hand
"The flying youths transmit their shining brand,
"From frame to frame the unextinguish'd soul
"Rapidly passes, till it reach the goal!

"Nor think 'tis only the gross Spirits, warm'd
"With duskier fire and for earth's medium form'd,
"That run this course:—Beings, the most divine,
"Thus deign through dark mortality to shine.
"Such was the Essence that in ADAM dwelt,
"To which all Heav'n, except the Proud One, knelt;[3]
"Such the refin'd Intelligence that glow'd
"In MOUSSA's[4] frame,—and, thence descending, flow'd
"Through many a Prophet's breast[5];—in ISSA[6] shone,
"And in MOHAMMED burn'd; till, hast'ning on,
"(As a bright river, that, from fall to fall
"In many a maze descending, bright through all,
"Finds some fair region where, each labyrinth past,
"In one full lake of light it rests at last,)
"That Holy Spirit, settling calm and free
"From lapse or shadow, centers all in me!"

Again, throughout the assembly at these words,
Thousands of voices rang: the warriors' swords
Were pointed up to heaven; a sudden wind
In the' open banners play'd, and from behind
Those Persian hangings, that but ill could screen
The Harami's loveliness, white hands were seen
Waving embroider'd scarves, whose motion gave
A perfume forth—like those the Houris wave
When beck'ning to their bow'rs the' immortal Brave.

"But these," pursued the Chief, "are truths sublime,
"That claim a holier mood and calmer time
"Than earth allows us now;—this sword must first
"The darkling prison-house of Mankind burst,
"Ere Peace can visit them, or Truth let in
"Her wakening daylight on a world of sin.
"But then,—celestial warriors, then, when all
"Earth's shrines and thrones before our banner falls,
"When the glad Slave shall at these feet lay down
"His broken chain, the tyrant Lord his crown,
"The Priest his book, the Conqueror his wreath,
"And from the lips of Truth one mighty breath
"Shall, like a whirlwind, scatter in its breeze
"That whole dark pile of human mockeries;—
"Then shall the reign of mind commence on earth,
"And starting fresh as from a second birth,
"Man, in the sunshine of the world's new spring,
"Shall walk transparent, like some holy thing!
"Then, too, your Prophet from his angel brow
"Shall cast the Veil that hides its splendours now,
"And gladden'd Earth shall, through her wide expanse,
"Bask in the glories of this countenance!

"For thee, young warrior, welcome!—thou hast yet
"Some tasks to learn, some frailties to forget,
"Ere the white war-plume o'er thy brow can wave;—
"But, once my own, mine all till in the grave!"

The pomp is at an end—the crowds are gone—
Each ear and heart still haunted by the tone
Of that deep voice, which thrill'd like ALLA's own!

[1] This wonderful Throne was called The Star of the Genii. For a full description of it, see the Fragment translated by Captain Franklin, from a Persian MS. entitled "The History of Jerusalem." *Oriental Collections*, vol. i. p. 235.—When Soliman travelled, the eastern writers say, "He had a carpet of green silk on which his throne was placed, being of a prodigious length and breadth, and sufficient for all his forces to stand upon, the men placing themselves on his right hand, the spirits on his left; and that when all were in order, the wind, at his command, took up the carpet, and transported it, all that were upon it, wherever he pleased; the army [illegible] at the same time flying over their heads, and forming [illegible] of canopy to shade them from the sun.—*Sale's* Koran, [illegible] p. 214. note.

[2] [illegible] transmigration of souls was one of his doctrines.

[3] "And when we said unto the angels, Worship Adam, they all worshipped him except Eblis (Lucifer), who refused."—*The Koran*, chap. ii.

[4] Moses.

[5] This is according to D'Herbelot's account of the doctrines of Mokanna:—"Sa doctrine étoit, que Dieu avoit pris une forme et figure humaine, depuis qu'il eut commandé aux Anges d'adorer Adam, le premier des hommes. Qu'après la mort d'Adam, Dieu étoit apparu sous la figure de plusieurs Prophètes, et autres grands hommes qu'il avoit choisis, jusqu'à ce qu'il prit celle d'Abu Moslem, Prince de Khorassan, lequel professoit l'erreur de la Tenassukhiah ou Métempsychose; et qu'après la mort de ce Prince, la Divinité étoit passée, et descendue en sa personne."

The Young all dazzled by the plumes and lances,
The glitt'ring throne, and Haram's half-caught glances;
The Old deep pond'ring on the promis'd reign
Of peace and truth: and all the female train
Ready to risk their eyes, could they but gaze
A moment on that brow's miraculous blaze!

But there was one, among the chosen maids,
Who blush'd behind the gallery's silken shades,
One, to whose soul the pageant of to-day
Has been like death:—you saw her pale dismay,
Ye wond'ring sisterhood, and heard the burst
Of exclamation from her lips, when first
She saw that youth, too well, too dearly known,
Silently kneeling at the Prophet's throne.

Ah ZELICA! there *was* a time, when bliss
Shone o'er thy heart from ev'ry look of his;
When but to see him, hear him, breathe the air
In which he dwelt, was thy soul's fondest prayer;
When round him hung such a perpetual spell,
Whate'er he did, none ever did so well.
Too happy days! when, if he touch'd a flow'r
Or gem of thine, 'twas sacred from that hour;
When thou didst study him till every tone
And gesture and dear look became thy own,—
Thy voice like his, the changes of his face
In thine reflected with still lovelier grace,
Like echo, sending back sweet music, fraught
With twice the' aërial sweetness it had brought!
Yet now he comes,—brighter than even he
Ere beam'd before,—but, ah! not bright for thee;
No—dread, unlook'd for, like a visitant
From the' other world, he comes as if to haunt
Thy guilty soul with dreams of lost delight,
Long lost to all but mem'ry's aching sight:—
Sad dreams! as when the Spirit of our Youth
Returns in sleep, sparkling with all the truth
And innocence once ours, and leads us back,
In mournful mockery, o'er the shining track
Of our young life, and points out every ray
Of hope and peace we've lost upon the way!

Once happy pair!—In proud BOKHARA's groves,
Who had not heard of their first youthful loves?
Born by that ancient flood[1], which from its spring
In the dark Mountains swiftly wand'ring,
Enrich'd by ev'ry pilgrim brook that shines
With relics from BUCHARIA's ruby mines,
And, lending to the CASPIAN half its strength,
In the cold Lake of Eagles sinks at length;—

There, on the banks of that bright river born,
The flow'rs, that hung above its wave at morn,
Bless'd not the waters, as they murmur'd by,
With holier scent and lustre, than the sigh
And virgin-glance of first affection cast
Upon their youth's smooth current, as it pass'd!
But war disturb'd this vision,—far away
From her fond eyes summon'd to join the' array
Of PERSIA's warriors on the hills of THRACE,
The youth exchang'd his sylvan dwelling-place
For the rude tent and war-field's deathful clash;
His ZELICA's sweet glances for the flash
Of Grecian wild-fire, and Love's gentle chains
For bleeding bondage on BYZANTIUM's plains.

Month after month, in widowhood of soul
Drooping, the maiden saw two summers roll
Their suns away—but, ah, how cold and dim
Ev'n summer suns, when not beheld with him!
From time to time ill-omen'd rumours came,
Like spirit-tongues, mutt'ring the sick man's name,
Just ere he dies:—at length those sounds of dread
Fell with'ring on her soul, "AZIM is dead!"
Oh Grief, beyond all other griefs, when fate
First leaves the young heart lone and desolate
In the wide world, without that only tie
For which it liv'd to live or fear'd to die;—
Lorn as the hung-up lute, that ne'er hath spoken
Since the sad day its master-chord was broken!

Fond maid, the sorrow of her soul was such,
Ev'n reason sunk,—blighted beneath its touch;
And though, ere long, her sanguine spirit rose
Above the first dead pressure of its woes,
Though health and bloom return'd, the delicate chain
Of thought, once tangled, never clear'd again.
Warm, lively, soft as in youth's happiest day,
The mind was still all there, but turn'd astray;—
A wand'ring bark, upon whose pathway shone
All stars of heaven, except the guiding one!
Again she smil'd, nay, much and brightly smil'd,
But 'twas a lustre, strange, unreal, wild;
And when she sung to her lute's touching strain,
'Twas like the notes, half ecstasy, half pain,
The bulbul[2] utters, ere her soul depart,
When, vanquish'd by some minstrel's pow'rful art,
She dies upon the lute whose sweetness broke her heart!

Such was the mood in which that mission found
Young ZELICA,—that mission, which around

[1] The Amoo, which rises in the Belur Tag, or Dark Mountains, and running nearly from east to west, splits into two branches; one of which falls into the Caspian sea, and the other into Aral Nahr, or the Lake of Eagles.

[2] The nightingale.

The Eastern world, in every region blest
With woman's smile, sought out its loveliest,
To grace that galaxy of lips and eyes
Which the Veil'd Prophet destin'd for the skies:—
And such quick welcome as a spark receives
Dropp'd on a bed of Autumn's wither'd leaves,
Did every tale of these enthusiasts find
In the wild maiden's sorrow-blighted mind.
All fire at once the madd'ning zeal she caught;—
Elect of Paradise! blest, rapturous thought!
Predestin'd bride, in heaven's eternal dome,
Of some brave youth—ha! durst they say "of *some?*"
No—of the one, one only object trac'd
In her heart's core too deep to be effac'd;
The one whose mem'ry, fresh as life, is twin'd
With every broken link of her lost mind;
Whose image lives, though Reason's self be wreck'd,
Safe 'mid the ruins of her intellect!

Alas, poor ZELICA! it needed all
The fantasy, which held thy mind in thrall,
To see in that gay Haram's glowing maids
A sainted colony for Eden's shades;
Or dream that he,—of whose unholy flame
Thou wert too soon the victim,—shining came
From Paradise, to people its pure sphere
With souls like thine, which he hath ruin'd here!
No—had not reason's light totally set,
And left thee dark, thou hadst an amulet
In the lov'd image, graven on thy heart,
Which would have sav'd thee from the tempter's art,
And kept alive, in all its bloom of breath,
That purity, whose fading is love's death!—
But lost, inflam'd,—a restless zeal took place
Of the mild virgin's still and feminine grace;
First of the Prophet's favourites, proudly first
In zeal and charms,—too well the' Impostor nurs'd
Her soul's delirium, in whose active flame,
Thus lighting up a young, luxuriant frame,
He saw more potent sorceries to bind
To his dark yoke the spirits of mankind,
More subtle chains than hell itself e'er twin'd.
No art was spar'd, no witch'ry;—all the skill
His demons taught him was employ'd to fill
Her mind with gloom and ecstasy by turns—
That gloom, through which Frenzy but fiercer burns;
That ecstasy, which from the depth of sadness
Glares like the maniac's moon, whose light is madness!

'Twas from a brilliant banquet, where the sound
Of poesy and music breath'd around,
Together picturing to her mind and ear
The glories of that heav'n, her destin'd sphere,
Where all was pure, where every stain that lay
Upon the spirit's light should pass away,
And, realizing more than youthful love
E'er wish'd or dream'd, she should for ever rove
Through fields of fragrance by her AZIM's side,
His own bless'd, purified, eternal bride!—
'Twas from a scene, a witching trance like this,
He hurried her away, yet breathing bliss,
To the dim charnel-house;—through all its steams
Of damp and death, led only by those gleams
Which foul Corruption lights, as with design
To show the gay and proud *she* too can shine—
And, passing on through upright ranks of Dead,
Which to the maiden, doubly craz'd by dread,
Seem'd, through the bluish death-light round them cast,
To move their lips in mutt'rings as she pass'd—
There, in that awful place, when each had quaff'd
And pledg'd in silence such a fearful draught,
Such—oh! the look and taste of that red bowl
Will haunt her till she dies—he bound her soul
By a dark oath, in hell's own language fram'd,
Never, while earth his mystic presence claim'd,
While the blue arch of day hung o'er them both,
Never, by that all-imprecating oath,
In joy or sorrow from his side to sever.—
She swore, and the wide charnel echoed, "Never, never!"

From that dread hour, entirely, wildly giv'n
To him and—she believ'd, lost maid!—to heav'n;
Her brain, her heart, her passions all inflam'd
How proud she stood, when in full Haram nam'd
The Priestess of the Faith!—how flash'd her eyes
With light, alas, that was not of the skies,
When round, in trances, only less than hers,
She saw the Haram kneel, her prostrate worshippers.
Well might MOKANNA think that form alone
Had spells enough to make the world his own:—
Light, lovely limbs, to which the spirit's play
Gave motion, airy as the dancing spray,
When from its stem the small bird wings away:
Lips in whose rosy labyrinth, when she smil'd,
The soul was lost; and blushes, swift and wild
As are the momentary meteors sent
Across the' uncalm, but beauteous firmament.
And then her look—oh! where's the heart so wise
Could unbewilder'd meet those matchless eyes?
Quick, restless, strange, but exquisite withal,
Like those of angels, just before their fall;

Now shadow'd with the shames of earth — now crost
By glimpses of the Heav'n her heart had lost;
In ev'ry glance there broke, without controul,
The flashes of a bright, but troubled soul,
Where sensibility still wildly play'd,
Like lightning, round the ruins it had made!

And such was now young ZELICA — so chang'd
From her who, some years since, delighted rang'd
The almond groves that shade BOKHARA's tide,
All life and bliss, with AZIM by her side!
So alter'd was she now, this festal day,
When, 'mid the proud Divan's dazzling array,
The vision of that Youth whom she had lov'd,
Had wept as dead, before her breath'd and mov'd;—
When — bright, she thought, as if from Eden's track
But half-way trodden, he had wander'd back
Again to earth, glist'ning with Eden's light—
Her beauteous AZIM shone before her sight.

O Reason! who shall say what spells renew,
When least we look for it, thy broken clew!
Through what small vistas o'er the darken'd brain
Thy intellectual day-beam bursts again;
And how, like forts, to which beleaguerers win
Unhop'd-for entrance through some friend within,
One clear idea, waken'd in the breast
By mem'ry's magic, lets in all the rest.
Would it were thus, unhappy girl, with thee!
But though light came, it came but partially;
Enough to show the maze, in which thy sense
Wander'd about, — but not to guide it thence;
Enough to glimmer o'er the yawning wave,
But not to point the harbour which might save.
Hours of delight and peace, long left behind,
With that dear form came rushing o'er her mind;
But, oh! to think how deep her soul had gone
In shame and falsehood since those moments shone;
And, then, her oath — *there* madness lay again,
And, shudd'ring, back she sunk into her chain
Of mental darkness, as if blest to flee
From light, whose every glimpse was agony!
Yet, *one* relief this glance of former years
Brought, mingled with its pain, — tears, floods of tears.
Long frozen at her heart, but now like rills
Let loose in spring-time from the snowy hills,
And gushing warm, after a sleep of frost,
Through valleys where their flow had long been lost.

Sad and subdu'd, for the first time her frame
Trembled with horror, when the summons came
(A summons proud and rare, which all but she,
And she, till now, had heard with ecstasy,)
To meet MOKANNA at his place of prayer,
A garden oratory, cool and fair,
By the stream's side, where still at close of day
The Prophet of the Veil retir'd to pray;
Sometimes alone — but, oft'ner far, with one,
One chosen nymph to share his orison.

Of late none found such favour in his sight
As the young Priestess; and though, since that night
When the death-caverns echo'd every tone
Of the dire oath that made her all his own,
The' Impostor, sure of his infatuate prize,
Had, more than once, thrown off his soul's disguise,
And utter'd such unheav'nly, monstrous things,
As ev'n across the desp'rate wanderings
Of a weak intellect, whose lamp was out,
Threw startling shadows of dismay and doubt; —
Yet zeal, ambition, her tremendous vow,
The thought, still haunting her, of that bright brow,
Whose blaze, as yet from mortal eye conceal'd,
Would soon, proud triumph! be to her reveal'd,
To her alone; — and then the hope, most dear,
Most wild of all, that her transgression here
Was but a passage through earth's grosser fire,
From which the spirit would at last aspire,
Ev'n purer than before, — as perfumes rise
Through flame and smoke, most welcome to the skies —
And that when AZIM's fond, divine embrace
Should circle her in heav'n, no dark'ning trace
Would on that bosom he once lov'd remain,
But all be bright, be pure, be *his* again! —
These were the wild'ring dreams, whose curst deceit
Had chain'd her soul beneath the tempter's feet,
And made her think ev'n damning falsehood sweet.
But now that Shape, which had appall'd her view,
That Semblance — oh how terrible, if true!
Which came across her frenzy's full career
With shock of consciousness, cold, deep, severe,
As when, in northern seas, at midnight dark,
An isle of ice encounters some swift bark,
And, startling all its wretches from their sleep,
By one cold impulse hurls them to the deep; —
So came that shock not frenzy's self could bear,
And waking up each long-lull'd image there,
But check'd her headlong soul, to sink it in despair!

Wan and dejected, through the ev'ning dusk,
She now went slowly to that small kiosk,
Where, pond'ring alone his impious schemes,
MOKANNA waited her — too wrapt in dreams
Of the fair-rip'ning future's rich success,
To heed the sorrow, pale and spiritless,

That sat upon his victim's downcast brow,
Or mark how slow her step, how alter'd now
From the quick, ardent Priestess, whose light bound
Came like a spirit's o'er the' unechoing ground,—
From that wild ZELICA, whose every glance
Was thrilling fire, whose ev'ry thought a trance!

Upon his couch the Veil'd MOKANNA lay,
While lamps around—not such as lend their ray,
Glimm'ring and cold, to those who nightly pray
In holy KOOM[1], or MECCA's dim arcades,—
But brilliant, soft, such lights as lovely maids
Look loveliest in, shed their luxurious glow
Upon his mystic Veil's white glitt'ring flow.
Beside him, 'stead of beads and books of pray'r,
Which the world fondly thought he mus'd on there,
Stood Vases, fill'd with KISHMEE's[2] golden wine,
And the red weepings of the SHIRAZ vine;
Of which his curtain'd lips full many a draught
Took zealously, as if each drop they quaff'd,
Like ZEMZEM's Spring of Holiness[3], had pow'r
To freshen the soul's virtues into flow'r!
And still he drank and ponder'd—nor could see
The' approaching maid, so deep his reverie;
At length, with fiendish laugh, like that which broke
From EBLIS at the Fall of Man, he spoke:—
"Yes, ye vile race, for hell's amusement given,
"Too mean for earth, yet claiming kin with heav'n;
"God's images, forsooth!—such gods as he
"Whom INDIA serves, the monkey deity;[4]—
"Ye creatures of a breath, proud things of clay,
"To whom if LUCIFER, as grandams say,
"Refus'd, though at the forfeit of heaven's light,
"To bend in worship, LUCIFER was right![5]—
"Soon shall I plant this foot upon the neck
"Of your foul race, and without fear or check,
"Luxuriating in hate, avenge my shame,
"My deep-felt, long-nurst loathing of man's name!—

"Soon at the head of myriads, blind and fierce
"As hooded falcons, through the universe
"I'll sweep my dark'ning, desolating way,
"Weak man my instrument, curst man my prey!

"Ye wise, ye learn'd, who grope your dull way on
"By the dim twinkling gleams of ages gone,
"Like superstitious thieves, who think the light
"From dead men's marrow guides them best at night[6]—
"Ye shall have honours—wealth—yes, Sages, yes—
"I know, grave fools, your wisdom's nothingness;
"Undazzled it can track yon starry sphere,
"But a gilt stick, a bauble blinds it here.
"How I shall laugh, when trumpeted along,
"In lying speech, and still more lying song,
"By these learn'd slaves, the meanest of the throng;
"Their wits bought up, their wisdom shrunk so small,
"A sceptre's puny point can wield it all!

"Ye too, believers of incredible creeds,
"Whose faith enshrines the monsters which it breeds;
"Who, bolder ev'n than NEMROD, think to rise,
"By nonsense heap'd on nonsense, to the skies;
"Ye shall have miracles, ay, sound ones too,
"Seen, heard, attested, ev'ry thing—but true.
"Your preaching zealots, too inspir'd to seek
"One grace of meaning for the things they speak;
"Your martyrs, ready to shed out their blood,
"For truths too heav'nly to be understood;
"And your State Priests, sole vendors of the lore,
"That works salvation;—as, on AVA's shore,
"Where none *but* priests are privileg'd to trade
"In that best marble of which Gods are made;[7]
"They shall have mysteries—ay, precious stuff,
"For knaves to thrive by—mysteries enough;
"Dark, tangled doctrines, dark as fraud can weave,
"Which simple votaries shall on trust receive,
"While craftier feign belief, till they believe.

[1] The cities of Com (or Koom) and Cashan are full of mosques, mausoleums, and sepulchres of the descendants of Ali, the Saints of Persia.—*Chardin.*

[2] An island in the Persian Gulf, celebrated for its white wine.

[3] The miraculous well at Mecca; so called, says Sale, from the murmuring of its waters.

[4] The god Hannaman.—"Apes are in many parts of India highly venerated, out of respect to the God Hannaman, a deity partaking of the form of that race."—*Pennant's* Hindoostan.

See a curious account, in *Stephen's Persia*, of a solemn embassy from some part of the Indies to Goa, when the Portuguese were there, offering vast treasures for the recovery of a monkey's tooth, which they held in great veneration, and which had been taken away upon the conquest of the kingdom of Jafanapatan.

[5] This resolution of Eblis not to acknowledge the new creature, man, was, according to Mahometan tradition, thus adopted:—"The earth (which God had selected for the materials of his work) was carried into Arabia to a place between Mecca and Tayef, where, being first kneaded by the angels, it was afterwards fashioned by God himself into a human form, and left to dry for the space of forty days, or, as others say, as many years; the angels, in the mean time, often visiting it, and Eblis (then one of the angels nearest to God's presence, afterwards the devil) among the rest; but he, not contented with looking at it, kicked it with his foot till it rung, and knowing God designed that creature to be his superior, took a secret resolution never to acknowledge him as such."—*Sale* on the Koran.

[6] A kind of lantern formerly used by robbers, called the Hand of Glory, the candle for which was made of the fat of a dead malefactor. This however, was rather a western than an eastern superstition.

[7] The material of which images of Gaudma (the Birman

" A Heav'n too ye must have, ye lords of dust,—
" A splendid Paradise,—pure souls, ye must:
" That Prophet ill sustains his holy call,
" Who finds not heav'ns to suit the tastes of all;
" Houris for boys, omniscience for sages,
" And wings and glories for all ranks and ages.
" Vain things!—as lust or vanity inspires,
" The heav'n of each is but what each desires,
" And, soul or sense, whate'er the object be,
" Man would be man to all eternity!
" So let him—EBLIS!—grant this crowning curse,
" But keep him what he is, no Hell were worse."

" Oh my lost soul!" exclaim'd the shudd'ring maid,
Whose ears had drunk like poison all he said:—
MOKANNA started—not abash'd, afraid,—
He knew no more of fear than one who dwells
Beneath the tropics knows of icicles!
But, in those dismal words that reach'd his ear,
" Oh my lost soul!" there was a sound so drear,
So like that voice, among the sinful dead,
In which the legend o'er Hell's Gate is read,
That, new as 'twas from her, whom nought could dim
Or sink till now, it startled even him.

" Ha, my fair Priestess!"—thus, with ready wile,
The' Impostor turn'd to greet her—" thou, whose smile
" Hath inspiration in its rosy beam
" Beyond the' Enthusiast's hope or Prophet's dream;
" Light of the Faith! who twin'st religion's zeal
" So close with love's, men know not which they feel,
" Nor which to sigh for, in their trance, of heart,
" The heav'n thou preachest or the heav'n thou art!
" What should I be without thee? without thee
" How dull were power, how joyless victory!
" Though borne by angels, if that smile of thine
" Bless'd not my banner, 'twere but half divine.
" But—why so mournful, child? those eyes, that shone
" All life last night—what!—is their glory gone?
" Come, come—this morn's fatigue hath made them pale,
" They want rekindling—suns themselves would fail
" Did not their comets bring, as I to thee,
" From light's own fount supplies of brilliancy.

" Thou seest this cup—no juice of earth is here,
" But the pure waters of that upper sphere,
" Whose rills o'er ruby beds and topaz flow,
" Catching the gem's bright colour, as they go.
" Nightly my Genii come and fill these urns—
" Nay, drink—in ev'ry drop life's essence burns;
" 'Twill make that soul all fire, those eyes all light—
" Come, come, I want thy loveliest smiles to-night:
" There is a youth—why start?—thou saw'st him then;
" Look'd he not nobly? such the godlike men
" Thou'lt have to woo thee in the bow'rs above;—
" Though *he*, I fear, hath thoughts too stern for love,
" Too rul'd by that cold enemy of bliss
" The world calls virtue—we must conquer this;
" Nay, shrink not, pretty sage! 'tis not for thee
" To scan the mazes of Heav'n's mystery:
" The steel must pass through fire, ere it can yield
" Fit instruments for mighty hands to wield.
" This very night I mean to try the art
" Of powerful beauty on that warrior's heart.
" All that my Haram boasts of bloom and wit,
" Of skill and charms, most rare and exquisite,
" Shall tempt the boy;—young MIRZALA's blue eyes,
" Whose sleepy lid like snow on violets lies;
" AROUYA's cheeks, warm as a spring-day sun,
" And lips that, like the seal of SOLOMON,
" Have magic in their pressure; ZEBA's lute,
" And LILLA's dancing feet, that gleam and shoot
" Rapid and white as sea-birds o'er the deep—
" All shall combine their witching powers to steep
" My convert's spirit in that soft'ning trance,
" From which to heav'n is but the next advance;—
" That glowing, yielding fusion of the breast,
" On which Religion stamps her image best.
" But hear me, Priestess!—though each nymph of these
" Hath some peculiar, practis'd pow'r to please,
" Some glance or step which, at the mirror tried,
" First charms herself, then all the world beside;
" There still wants *one*, to make the vict'ry sure,
" One who in every look joins every lure;
" Through whom all beauty's beams concentred pass,
" Dazzling and warm, as through love's burning glass;
" Whose gentle lips persuade without a word,
" Whose words, ev'n when unmeaning, are ador'd,
" Like inarticulate breathings from a shrine,
" Which our faith takes for granted are divine!
" Such is the nymph we want, all warmth and light,
" To crown the rich temptations of to-night;

Deity) are made, is held sacred. " Birmans may not purchase the marble in mass, but are suffered, and indeed encouraged, to buy figures of the Deity ready made."—*Syme's* Ava, vol. ii. p. 376.

" Such the refin'd enchantress that must be
" This hero's vanquisher,—and thou art she!"

With her hands clasp'd, her lips apart and pale,
The maid had stood, gazing upon the Veil
From which these words, like south winds through a fence
Of Kerzrah flow'rs, came fill'd with pestilence;[1]
So boldly utter'd too! as if all dread
Of frowns from her, of virtuous frowns, were fled,
And the wretch felt assur'd that, once plung'd in,
Her woman's soul would know no pause in sin!

At first, though mute she listen'd, like a dream
Seem'd all he said: nor could her mind, whose beam
As yet was weak, penetrate half his scheme.
But when, at length, he utter'd, " Thou art she!"
All flash'd at once, and shrieking piteously,
" Oh not for worlds!" she cried—" Great God! to whom
" I once knelt innocent, is this my doom?
" Are all my dreams, my hopes of heav'nly bliss,
" My purity, my pride, then come to this,—
" To live, the wanton of a fiend! to be
" The pander of his guilt—oh infamy!
" And sunk, myself, as low as hell can steep
" In its hot flood, drag others down as deep!
" Others—ha! yes—that youth who came to-day—
" *Not* him I lov'd—not him—oh! do but say,
" But swear to me this moment 'tis not he,
" And I will serve, dark fiend, will worship even thee!"

" Beware, young raving thing;—in time beware,
" Nor utter what I cannot, must not bear,
" Ev'n from *thy* lips. Go—try thy lute, thy voice,
" The boy must feel their magic;—I rejoice
" To see those fires, no matter whence they rise,
" Once more illuming my fair Priestess' eyes;
" And should the youth, whom soon those eyes shall warm,
" *Indeed* resemble thy dead lover's form,
" So much the happier wilt thou find thy doom,
" As one warm lover, full of life and bloom,
" Excels ten thousand cold ones in the tomb.
" Nay, nay, no frowning, sweet!—those eyes were made
" For love, not anger—I must be obey'd."

Obey'd!—'tis well—yes, I deserve it all—
" On me, on me Heav'n's vengeance cannot fall
" Too heavily—but AZIM, brave and true
" And beautiful—must *he* be ruin'd too?
" Must *he* too, glorious as he is, be driven
" A renegade like me from Love and Heaven?
" Like me?—weak wretch, I wrong him—not like me;
" No—he's all truth and strength and purity!
" Fill up your madd'ning hell-cup to the brim,
" Its witch'ry, fiends, will have no charm for him.
" Let loose your glowing wantons from their bow'rs,
" He loves, he loves, and can defy their powers!
" Wretch as I am, in *his* heart still I reign
" Pure as when first we met, without a stain!
" Though ruin'd—lost—my mem'ry, like a charm
" Left by the dead, still keeps his soul from harm.
" Oh! never let him know how deep the brow
" He kiss'd at parting is dishonour'd now;—
" Ne'er tell him how debas'd, how sunk is she,
" Whom once he lov'd—once!—*still* loves dotingly.
" Thou laugh'st, tormentor,—what!—thou'lt brand my name?
" Do, do—in vain—he'll not believe my shame—
" He thinks me true, that nought beneath God's sky
" Could tempt or change me, and—so once thought I.
" But this is past—though worse than death my lot,
" Than hell—'tis nothing while *he* knows it not.
" Far off to some benighted land I'll fly,
" Where sunbeam ne'er shall enter till I die;
" Where none will ask the lost one whence she came,
" But I may fade and fall without a name.
" And thou—curst man or fiend, whate'er thou art,
" Who found'st this burning plague-spot in my heart,
" And spread'st it—oh, so quick!—through soul and frame,
" With more than demon's art, till I became
" A loathsome thing, all pestilence, all flame!—
" If, when I'm gone——"

" Hold, fearless maniac, hold,
" Nor tempt my rage—by Heaven, not half so bold
" The puny bird, that dares with teasing hum
" Within the crocodile's stretch'd jaws to come;[2]

[1] " It is commonly said in Persia, that if a man breathe in the hot south wind, which in June or July passes over that flower (the Kerzereh), it will kill him."—*Thevenot.*

[2] The humming bird is said to run this risk for the purpose of picking the crocodile's teeth. The same circumstance is related of the lapwing, as a fact to which he was witness, by *Paul Lucas*, Voyage fait en 1714.

The ancient story concerning the Trochilus, or humming-bird, entering with impunity into the mouth of the crocodile, is firmly believed at Java.—*Barrow's Cochin-China.*

" And so thou'lt fly, forsooth ?—what!—give up all
" Thy chaste dominion in the Haram Hall,
" Where now to Love and now to ALLA given,
" Half mistress and half saint, thou hang'st as even
" As doth MEDINA's tomb, 'twixt hell and heaven!
" Thou'lt fly ?—as easily may reptiles run,
" The gaunt snake once hath fix'd his eyes upon;
" As easily, when caught, the prey may be
" Pluck'd from his loving folds, as thou from me.
" No, no, 'tis fix'd—let good or ill betide,
" Thou'rt mine till death, till death MOKANNA's bride!
" Hast thou forgot thy oath ?"—
At this dread word,
The Maid, whose spirit his rude taunts had stirr'd
Through all its depths, and rous'd an anger there,
That burst and lighten'd even through her despair—
Shrunk back, as if a blight were in the breath
That spoke that word, and stagger'd pale as death.

" Yes, my sworn bride, let others seek in bow'rs
" Their bridal place—the charnel vault was ours!
" Instead of scents and balms, for thee and me
" Rose the rich steams of sweet mortality;
" Gay, flick'ring death-lights shone while we were wed,
" And, for our guests, a row of goodly Dead,
" (Immortal spirits in their time, no doubt,)
" From reeking shrouds upon the rite look'd out!
" That oath thou heard'st more lips than thine repeat—
" That cup—thou shudd'rest, Lady,—was it sweet?
" That cup we pledg'd, the charnel's choicest wine,
" Hath bound thee—ay—body and soul all mine;
" Bound thee by chains that, whether blest or curst
" No matter now, not hell itself shall burst!
" Hence, woman, to the Haram, and look gay,
" Look wild, look—any thing but sad; yet stay—
" One moment more—from what this night hath pass'd,
" I see thou know'st me, know'st me *well* at last.
" Ha! ha! and so, fond thing, thou thought'st all true,
" And that I love mankind ?—I do, I do—
" As victims, love them; as the sea-dog doats
" Upon the small, sweet fry that round him floats;
" Or, as the Nile-bird loves the slime that gives
" That rank and venomous food on which she lives?—[1]

" And, now thou seest my *soul*'s angelic hue,
" 'Tis time these *features* were uncurtain'd too;—
" This brow, whose light—oh rare celestial light!
" Hath been reserv'd to bless thy favour'd sight;
" These dazzling eyes, before whose shrouded might
" Thou'st seen immortal Man kneel down and quake—
" Would that they *were* heaven's lightnings for his sake!
" But turn and look—then wonder, if thou wilt,
" That I should hate, should take revenge, by guilt,
" Upon the hand, whose mischief or whose mirth
" Sent me thus maim'd and monstrous upon earth;
" And on that race who, though more vile they be
" Than mowing apes, are demi-gods to me!
" Here—judge if hell, with all its power to damn,
" Can add one curse to the foul thing I am!"—

He rais'd his veil—the Maid turn'd slowly round,
Look'd at him—shriek'd—and sunk upon the ground!

ON their arrival, next night, at the place of encampment, they were surprised and delighted to find the groves all around illuminated; some artists of Yamtcheou[2] having been sent on previously for the purpose. On each side of the green alley which led to the Royal Pavilion, artificial sceneries of bamboo-work[3] were erected, representing arches, minarets, and towers, from which hung thousands of silken lanterns, painted by the most delicate pencils of Canton.—Nothing could be more beautiful than the leaves of the mango-trees and acacias, shining in the light of the bamboo-scenery, which shed a lustre round as soft as that of the nights of Peristan.

[1] Circum easdem ripas (Nili, viz.) ales est Ibis. Ea serpentium populatur ova, gratissimamque ex his escam nidis suis refert. — *Solinus.*

[2] "The feast of Lanterns is celebrated at Yamtcheou with more magnificence than any where else: and the report goes, that the illuminations there are so splendid, that an Emperor once, not daring openly to leave his Court to go thither, committed himself with the Queen and several Princesses of his family into the hands of a magician, who promised to transport them thither in a trice. He made them in the night to ascend magnificent thrones that were borne up by swans, which in a moment arrived at Yamtcheou. The Emperor saw at his leisure all the solemnity, being carried upon a cloud that hovered over the city and descended by degrees; and came back again with the same speed and equipage, nobody at court perceiving his absence." — *The Present State of China*, p. 156.

[3] See a description of the nuptials of Vizier Alee in the *Asiatic Annual Register of* 1804.

LALLA ROOKH, however, who was too much occupied by the sad story of ZELICA and her lover, to give a thought to any thing else, except, perhaps, him who related it, hurried on through this scene of splendour to her pavilion,—greatly to the mortification of the poor artists of Yamtcheou,—and was followed with equal rapidity by the Great Chamberlain, cursing, as he went, that ancient Mandarin, whose parental anxiety in lighting up the shores of the lake, where his beloved daughter had wandered and been lost, was the origin of these fantastic Chinese illuminations. [1]

Without a moment's delay, young FERAMORZ was introduced, and FADLADEEN, who could never make up his mind as to the merits of a poet, till he knew the religious sect to which he belonged, was about to ask him whether he was a Shia or a Sooni, when LALLA ROOKH impatiently clapped her hands for silence, and the youth, being seated upon the musnud near her, proceeded :—

PREPARE thy soul, young AZIM!—thou hast
brav'd
The bands of GREECE, still mighty though enslav'd;
Hast fac'd her phalanx, arm'd with all its fame,
Her Macedonian pikes and globes of flame;
All this hast fronted, with firm heart and brow;
But a more perilous trial waits thee now,—
Woman's bright eyes, a dazzling host of eyes
From every land where woman smiles or sighs;
Of every hue, as Love may chance to raise
His black or azure banner in their blaze;
And each sweet mode of warfare, from the flash
That lightens boldly through the shadowy lash,
To the sly, stealing splendours, almost hid,
Like swords half-sheath'd, beneath the downcast lid;—
Such, AZIM, is the lovely, luminous host
Now led against thee; and, let conqu'rors boast
Their fields of fame, he who in virtue arms
A young, warm spirit against beauty's charms,
Who feels her brightness, yet defies her thrall,
Is the best, bravest conqu'ror of them all.

Now, through the Haram chambers, moving
lights
And busy shapes proclaim the toilet's rites;—
From room to room the ready handmaids hie,
Some skill'd to wreath the turban tastefully,
Or hang the veil, in negligence of shade,
O'er the warm blushes of the youthful maid,
Who, if between the folds but *one* eye shone,
Like SEBA'S Queen could vanquish with that
one:—[2]
While some bring leaves of Henna, to imbue
The fingers' ends with a bright roseate hue,[3]
So bright, that in the mirror's depth they seem
Like tips of coral branches in the stream:
And others mix the Kohol's jetty dye,
To give that long, dark languish to the eye,[4]
Which makes the maids, whom kings are proud to
cull
From fair Circassia's vales, so beautiful.
All is in motion; rings and plumes and pearls
Are shining ev'ry where:—some younger girls
Are gone by moonlight to the garden-beds,
To gather fresh, cool chaplets for their heads;—
Gay creatures! sweet, though mournful, 'tis to see
How each prefers a garland from that tree
Which brings to mind her childhood's innocent day
And the dear fields and friendships far away.
The maid of INDIA, blest again to hold
In her full lap the Champac's leaves of gold,[5]
Thinks of the time when, by the GANGES' flood,
Her little playmates scatter'd many a bud
Upon her long black hair, with glossy gleam
Just dripping from the consecrated stream;

[1] "The vulgar ascribe it to an accident that happened in the family of a famous Mandarin, whose daughter, walking one evening upon the shore of a lake, fell in and was drowned: this afflicted father, with his family, ran thither, and, the better to find her, he caused a great company of lanterns to be lighted. All the inhabitants of the place thronged after him with torches. The year ensuing they made fires upon the shores the same day; they continued the ceremony every year, every one lighted his lantern, and by degrees it commenced into a custom."—*Present State of China.*

[2] "Thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes."—*Sol. Song.*

[3] "They tinged the ends of her fingers scarlet with Henna, so that they resembled branches of coral."—*Story of Prince Futtun in Bahardanush.*

[4] "The women blacken the inside of their eyelids with a powder named the black Kohol."—*Russel.*

"None of these ladies," says *Shaw*, "take themselves to be completely dressed, till they have tinged the hair and edges of their eyelids with the powder of lead-ore. Now, as this operation is performed by dipping first into the powder a small wooden bodkin of the thickness of a quill, and then drawing it afterwards through the eyelids over the ball of the eye, we shall have a lively image of what the Prophet (Jer. iv. 30.) may be supposed to mean by *rending the eyes with painting.* This practice is no doubt of great antiquity; for besides the instance already taken notice of, we find that where Jezebel is said (2 Kings, ix. 30.) *to have painted her face*, the original words are, *she adjusted her eyes with the powder of lead-ore.*"—*Shaw*'s Travels.

[5] "The appearance of the blossoms of the gold-coloured Champac on the black hair of the Indian women has supplied the Sanscrit Poets with many elegant allusions."—See *Asiatic Researches*, vol. iv.

While the young Arab, haunted by the smell
Of her own mountain flow'rs, as by a spell,—
The sweet Elcaya[1], and that courteous tree
Which bows to all who seek its canopy,[2]
Sees, call'd up round her by these magic scents,
The well, the camels, and her father's tents;
Sighs for the home she left with little pain,
And wishes ev'n its sorrows back again!

Meanwhile, through vast illuminated halls,
Silent and bright, where nothing but the falls
Of fragrant waters, gushing with cool sound
From many a jasper fount, is heard around,
Young AZIM roams bewilder'd,—nor can guess
What means this maze of light and loneliness.
Here, the way leads, o'er tesselated floors
Or mats of CAIRO, through long corridors,
Where, rang'd in cassolets and silver urns,
Sweet wood of aloe or of sandal burns;
And spicy rods, such as illume at night
The bow'rs of TIBET[3], send forth odorous light,
Like Peris' wands, when pointing out the road
For some pure Spirit to its blest abode:—
And here, at once, the glittering saloon
Bursts on his sight, boundless and bright as noon;
Where, in the midst, reflecting back the rays
In broken rainbows, a fresh fountain plays
High as the' enamell'd cupola, which tow'rs
All rich with Arabesques of gold and flow'rs:
And the mosaic floor beneath shines through
The sprinkling of that fountain's silv'ry dew,
Like the wet, glist'ning shells, of ev'ry dye,
That on the margin of the Red Sea lie.

Here too he traces the kind visitings
Of woman's love in those fair, living things
Of land and wave, whose fate—in bondage thrown
For their weak loveliness—is like her own!
On one side gleaming with a sudden grace
Through water, brilliant as the crystal vase
In which it undulates, small fishes shine,
Like golden ingots from a fairy mine;—
While, on the other, lattic'd lightly in
With odoriferous woods of COMORIN,[4]
Each brilliant bird that wings the air is seen;—
Gay, sparkling loories, such as gleam between
The crimson blossoms of the coral tree[5]
In the warm isles of India's sunny sea:
Mecca's blue sacred pigeon[6], and the thrush
Of Hindostan[7], whose holy warblings gush,
At evening, from the tall pagoda's top;—
Those golden birds that, in the spice-time, drop
About the gardens, drunk with that sweet food[8]
Whose scent hath lur'd them o'er the summer flood;[9]
And those that under Araby's soft sun
Build their high nests of budding cinnamon;[10]
In short, all rare and beauteous things, that fly
Through the pure element, here calmly lie
Sleeping in light, like the green birds[11] that dwell
In Eden's radiant fields of asphodel!

So on, through scenes past all imagining,
More like the luxuries of that impious King,[12]
Whom Death's dark Angel, with his lightning torch,
Struck down and blasted ev'n in Pleasure's porch,
Than the pure dwelling of a Prophet sent,
Arm'd with Heaven's sword, for man's enfranchisement—
Young AZIM wander'd, looking sternly round,
His simple garb and war-boots' clanking sound
But ill according with the pomp and grace
And silent lull of that voluptuous place.

"Is this, then," thought the youth, "is this the way
"To free man's spirit from the dead'ning sway
"Of worldly sloth,—to teach him while he lives,
"To know no bliss but that which virtue gives,
"And when he dies, to leave his lofty name
"A light, a landmark on the cliffs of fame?
"It was not so, Land of the generous thought
"And daring deed, thy godlike sages taught;
"It was not thus, in bowers of wanton ease,
"Thy Freedom nurs'd her sacred energies;

[1] A tree famous for its perfume, and common on the hills of Yemen.—*Niebuhr*.

[2] Of the genus mimosa, "which droops its branches whenever any person approaches it, seeming as if it saluted those who retire under its shade."—*Ibid*.

[3] "Cloves are a principal ingredient in the composition of the perfumed rods, which men of rank keep constantly burning in their presence."—*Turner*'s Tibet.

[4] "C'est d'où vient le bois d'aloës, que les Arabes appellent Oud Comari, et celui du sandal, qui s'y trouve en grande quantité."—*D'Herbelot*.

[5] "Thousands of variegated loories visit the coral-trees."—*Barrow*.

[6] "In Mecca there are quantities of blue pigeons, which none will affright or abuse, much less kill."—*Pitt*'s Account of the Mahometans.

[7] "The Pagoda Thrush is esteemed among the first choristers of India. It sits perched on the sacred pagodas, and from thence delivers its melodious song."—*Pennant*'s Hindostan.

[8] *Tavernier* adds, that while the Birds of Paradise lie in this intoxicated state, the emmets come and eat off their legs; and that hence it is they are said to have no feet.

[9] Birds of Paradise, which, at the nutmeg season, come in flights from the southern isles to India; and "the strength of the nutmeg," says *Tavernier*, "so intoxicates them that they fall dead drunk to the earth."

[10] "That bird which liveth in Arabia, and buildeth its nest with cinnamon."—*Brown*'s Vulgar Errors.

[11] "The spirits of the martyrs will be lodged in the crops of green birds."—*Gibbon*, vol. ix. p. 421.

[12] Shedad, who made the delicious gardens of Irim, in imitation of Paradise, and was destroyed by lightning the first time he attempted to enter them.

" Oh! not beneath the enfeebling, with'ring glow
" Of such dull lux'ry did those myrtles grow,
" With which she wreath'd her sword, when she would dare
" Immortal deeds; but in the bracing air
" Of toil,—of temperance,—of that high, rare,
" Ethereal virtue, which alone can breathe
" Life, health, and lustre into Freedom's wreath.
" Who, that surveys this span of earth we press,—
" This speck of life in time's great wilderness,
" This narrow isthmus 'twixt two boundless seas,
" The past, the future, two eternities!—
" Would sully the bright spot, or leave it bare,
" When he might build him a proud temple there,
" A name, that long shall hallow all its space,
" And be each purer soul's high resting-place.
" But no—it cannot be, that one, whom God
" Has sent to break the wizard Falsehood's rod,—
" A Prophet of the Truth, whose mission draws
" Its rights from Heavn, should thus profane its cause
" With the world's vulgar pomps;—no, no,—I see—
" He thinks me weak—this glare of luxury
" Is but to tempt, to try the eaglet gaze
" Of my young soul—shine on, 'twill stand the blaze!"

So thought the youth;—but, ev'n while he defied
This witching scene, he felt its witch'ry glide
Through ev'ry sense. The perfume breathing round,
Like a pervading spirit;—the still sound
Of falling waters, lulling as the song
Of Indian bees at sunset, when they throng
Around the fragrant Nilica, and deep
In its blue blossoms hum themselves to sleep;[1]
And music, too—dear music! that can touch
Beyond all else the soul that loves it much—
Now heard far off, so far as but to seem
Like the faint, exquisite music of a dream;
All was too much for him, too full of bliss,
The heart could nothing feel, that felt not this;
Soften'd he sunk upon a couch, and gave
His soul up to sweet thoughts, like wave on wave
Succeeding in smooth seas, when storms are laid;
He thought of Zelica, his own dear maid,
And of the time when, full of blissful sighs,
They sat and look'd into each other's eyes,
Silent and happy—as if God had giv'n
Nought else worth looking at on this side heav'n.

" Oh, my lov'd mistress, thou, whose spirit still
" Is with me, round me, wander where I will—
" It is for thee, for thee alone I seek
" The paths of glory; to light up thy cheek
" With warm approval—in that gentle look,
" To read my praise, as in an angel's book,
" And think all toils rewarded, when from thee
" I gain a smile worth immortality!
" How shall I bear the moment, when restor'd
" To that young heart where I alone am Lord,
" Though of such bliss unworthy,—since the best
" Alone deserve to be the happiest:—
" When from those lips, unbreath'd upon for years,
" I shall again kiss off the soul-felt tears,
" And find those tears warm as when last they started,
" Those sacred kisses pure as when we parted.
" O my own life!—why should a single day,
" A moment keep me from those arms away?"

While thus he thinks, still nearer on the breeze
Come those delicious, dream-like harmonies,
Each note of which but adds new, downy links
To the soft chain in which his spirit sinks.
He turns him tow'rd the sound, and far away
Through a long vista, sparkling with the play
Of countless lamps,—like the rich track which Day
Leaves on the waters, when he sinks from us,
So long the path, its light so tremulous;—
He sees a group of female forms advance,
Some chain'd together in the mazy dance
By fetters, forg'd in the green sunny bow'rs,
As they were captives to the King of Flow'rs;[2]
And some disporting round, unlink'd and free,
Who seem'd to mock their sisters' slavery;
And round and round them still, in wheeling flight
Went, like gay moths about a lamp at night;
While others wak'd, as gracefully along
Their feet kept time, the very soul of song
From psalt'ry, pipe, and lutes of heav'nly thrill,
Or their own youthful voices, heav'nlier still.
And now they come, now pass before his eye,
Forms such as Nature moulds, when she would vie
With Fancy's pencil, and give birth to things
Lovely beyond its fairest picturings.
Awhile they dance before him, then divide,
Breaking, like rosy clouds at even-tide
Around the rich pavilion of the sun,—
Till silently dispersing, one by one,

[1] " My Pandits assure me that the plant before us (the Nilica) is their Sephalica, thus named because the bees are supposed to sleep on its blossoms."—*Sir W. Jones.*

[2] " They deferred it till the King of Flowers should ascend his throne of enamelled foliage."—*The Bahardanush.*

Through many a path, that from the chamber leads
To gardens, terraces, and moonlight meads,
Their distant laughter comes upon the wind,
And but one trembling nymph remains behind,—
Beck'ning them back in vain, for they are gone,
And she is left in all that light alone;
No veil to curtain o'er her beauteous brow,
In its young bashfulness more beauteous now;
But a light golden chain-work round her hair,[1]
Such as the maids of YEZD[2] and SHIRAS wear,
From which, on either side, gracefully hung
A golden amulet, in the' Arab tongue,
Engraven o'er with some immortal line
From Holy Writ, or bard scarce less divine;
While her left hand, as shrinkingly she stood,
Held a small lute of gold and sandal-wood,
Which, once or twice, she touch'd with hurried strain,
Then took her trembling fingers off again.
But when at length a timid glance she stole
At AZIM, the sweet gravity of soul
She saw through all his features calm'd her fear,
And, like a half-tam'd antelope, more near,
Though shrinking still, she came;—then sat her down
Upon a musnud's[3] edge, and, bolder grown,
In the pathetic mode of ISFAHAN[4]
Touch'd a preluding strain, and thus began:—

There's a bower of roses by BENDEMEER's[5] stream,
And the nightingale sings round it all the day long;
In the time of my childhood 'twas like a sweet dream,
To sit in the roses and hear the bird's song.

That bower and its music I never forget,
But oft when alone, in the bloom of the year,
I think—is the nightingale singing there yet?
Are the roses still bright by the calm BENDEMEER?

No, the roses soon wither'd that hung o'er the wave,
But some blossoms were gather'd, while freshly they shone,
And a dew was distill'd from their flowers, that gave
All the fragrance of summer, when summer was gone.

Thus memory draws from delight, ere it dies,
An essence that breathes of it many a year;
Thus bright to my soul, as 'twas then to my eyes,
Is that bower on the banks of the calm BENDEMEER!

"Poor maiden!" thought the youth, "if thou wert sent,
"With thy soft lute and beauty's blandishment,
"To wake unholy wishes in this heart,
"Or tempt its troth, thou little know'st the art.
"For though thy lip should sweetly counsel wrong,
"Those vestal eyes would disavow its song.
"But thou hast breath'd such purity, thy lay
"Returns so fondly to youth's virtuous day,
"And leads thy soul—if e'er it wander'd thence—
"So gently back to its first innocence,
"That I would sooner stop the unchain'd dove,
"When swift returning to its home of love,
"And round its snowy wing new fetters twine,
"Than turn from virtue one pure wish of thine!"

Scarce had this feeling pass'd, when, sparkling through
The gently open'd curtains of light blue
That veil'd the breezy casement, countless eyes,
Peeping like stars through the blue ev'ning skies,
Look'd laughing in, as if to mock the pair
That sat so still and melancholy, there:—
And now the curtains fly apart, and in
From the cool air, 'mid show'rs of jessamine
Which those without fling after them in play,
Two lightsome maidens spring,—lightsome as they
Who live in the' air on odours,—and around
The bright saloon, scarce conscious of the ground,
Chase one another, in a varying dance
Of mirth and languor, coyness and advance,
Too eloquently like love's warm pursuit:—
While she, who sung so gently to the lute
Her dream of home, steals timidly away,
Shrinking as violets do in summer's ray,—
But takes with her from AZIM's heart that sigh,
We sometimes give to forms that pass us by
In the world's crowd, too lovely to remain,
Creatures of light we never see again!

Around the white necks of the nymphs who danc'd
Hung carcanets of orient gems, that glanc'd

[1] "One of the head-dresses of the Persian women is composed of a light golden chain-work, set with small pearls, with a thin gold plate pendant, about the bigness of a crown-piece, on which is impressed an Arabian prayer, and which hangs upon the cheek below the ear."—*Hanway's Travels.*

[2] "Certainly the women of Yezd are the handsomest women in Persia. The proverb is, that to live happy a man must have a wife of Yezd, eat the bread of Yezdecas, and drink the wine of Shiraz."—*Tavernier.*

[3] Musnuds are cushioned seats, usually reserved for persons of distinction.

[4] The Persians, like the ancient Greeks, call their musical modes or Perdas by the names of different countries or cities, as the mode of Isfahan, the mode of Irak, &c.

[5] A river which flows near the ruins of Chilminar.

More brilliant than the sea-glass glitt'ring o'er
The hills of crystal on the Caspian shore; [1]
While from their long, dark tresses, in a fall
Of curls descending, bells as musical
As those that, on the golden-shafted trees
Of EDEN, shake in the eternal breeze, [2]
Rung round their steps, at ev'ry bound more sweet,
As 'twere the' extatic language of their feet.
At length the chase was o'er, and they stood wreath'd
Within each other's arms; while soft there breath'd
Through the cool casement, mingled with the sighs
Of moonlight flow'rs, music that seem'd to rise
From some still lake, so liquidly it rose;
And, as it swell'd again at each faint close,
The ear could track through all that maze of chords
And young sweet voices, these impassion'd words:

A SPIRIT there is, whose fragrant sigh
Is burning now through earth and air;
Where cheeks are blushing, the Spirit is nigh,
Where lips are meeting, the Spirit is there!

His breath is the soul of flow'rs like these,
And his floating eyes — oh! *they* resemble [3]
Blue water-lilies [4], when the breeze
Is making the stream around them tremble.

Hail to thee, hail to thee, kindling pow'r!
Spirit of Love, Spirit of Bliss!
Thy holiest time is the moonlight hour,
And there never was moonlight so sweet as this.

By the fair and brave
Who blushing unite,
Like the sun and wave,
When they meet at night;

By the tear that shows
When passion is nigh,
As the rain-drop flows
From the heat of the sky;

By the first love-beat
Of the youthful heart,
By the bliss to meet,
And the pain to part;

By all that thou hast
To mortals given,
Which — oh, could it last,
This earth were heaven!

We call thee hither, entrancing Power!
Spirit of Love! Spirit of Bliss!
Thy holiest time is the moonlight hour,
And there never was moonlight so sweet as this.

Impatient of a scene, whose lux'ries stole,
Spite of himself, too deep into his soul
And where, midst all that the young heart loves most,
Flow'rs, music, smiles, to yield was to be lost,
The youth had started up, and turn'd away
From the light nymphs, and their luxurious lay,
To muse upon the pictures that hung round, — [5]
Bright images, that spoke without a sound,
And views, like vistas into fairy ground.
But here again new spells came o'er his sense: —
All that the pencil's mute omnipotence
Could call up into life, of soft and fair,
Of fond and passionate, was glowing there;
Nor yet too warm, but touch'd with that fine art
Which paints of pleasure but the purer part;
Which knows ev'n Beauty when half-veil'd is best, —
Like her own radiant planet of the west,
Whose orb when half retir'd looks loveliest. [6]
There hung the history of the Genii-King,
Trac'd through each gay, voluptuous wandering
With her from SABA's bowers, in whose bright eyes
He read that to be blest is to be wise; — [7]

[1] "To the north of us (on the coast of the Caspian, near Badku,) was a mountain, which sparkled like diamonds, arising from the sea-glass and crystals with which it abounds." — *Journey of the Russian Ambassador to Persia*, 1746.

[2] "To which will be added the sound of the bells, hanging on the trees, which will be put in motion by the wind proceeding from the throne of God, as often as the blessed wish for music." — *Sale*.

[3] "Whose wanton eyes resemble blue water-lilies, agitated by the breeze." — *Jayadeva*.

[4] The blue lotus, which grows in Cashmere and in Persia.

[5] It has been generally supposed that the Mahometans prohibit all pictures of animals; but *Toderini* shows that, though the practice is forbidden by the Koran, they are not more averse to painted figures and images than other people. From Mr. Murphy's work, too, we find that the Arabs of Spain had no objection to the introduction of figures into painting.

[6] This is not quite astronomically true. "Dr. Hadley (says Keil) has shown that Venus is brightest when she is about forty degrees removed from the sun; and that then but *only a fourth part* of her lucid disk is to be seen from the earth."

[7] For the loves of King Solomon (who was supposed to preside over the whole race of Genii) with Balkis, the Queen of Sheba or Saba, see *D'Herbelot*, and the *Notes on the Koran*, chap. 2.

"In the palace which Solomon ordered to be built against the arrival of the Queen of Saba, the floor or pavement was of transparent glass, laid over running water, in which fish were swimming." This led the Queen into a very natural mistake, which the Koran has not thought beneath its dignity to commemorate. "It was said unto her, 'Enter the palace.' And when she saw it she imagined it to be a great water; and she discovered her legs, by lifting up her robe to pass through it. Whereupon Solomon said to her, 'Verily, this is the place evenly floored with glass.'" — Chap. 27.

Here fond ZULEIKA[1] woos with open arms
The Hebrew boy, who flies from her young charms,
Yet, flying, turns to gaze, and, half undone,
Wishes that Heav'n and she could *both* be won;
And here MOHAMMED, born for love and guile,
Forgets the Koran in his MARY's smile; —
Then beckons some kind angel from above
With a new text to consecrate their love.[2]

With rapid step, yet pleas'd and ling'ring eye,
Did the youth pass these pictur'd stories by,
And hasten'd to a casement, where the light
Of the calm moon came in, and freshly bright
The fields without were seen, sleeping as still
As if no life remain'd in breeze or rill.
Here paus'd he, while the music, now less near,
Breath'd with a holier language on his ear,
As though the distance, and that heav'nly ray
Through which the sounds came floating, took away
All that had been too earthly in the lay.

Oh! could he listen to such sounds unmov'd,
And by that light — nor dream of her he lov'd?
Dream on, unconscious boy! while yet thou may'st;
'Tis the last bliss thy soul shall ever taste.
Clasp yet awhile her image to thy heart,
Ere all the light, that made it dear, depart.
Think of her smiles as when thou saw'st them last,
Clear, beautiful, by nought of earth o'ercast;
Recall her tears, to thee at parting giv'n,
Pure as they weep, *if* angels weep, in Heav'n.
Think, in her own still bower she waits thee now,
With the same glow of heart and bloom of brow,
Yet shrin'd in solitude — thine all, thine only,
Like the one star above thee, bright and lonely.
Oh! that a dream so sweet, so long enjoy'd,
Should be so sadly, cruelly destroy'd!

The song is hush'd, the laughing nymphs are down,
And he is left, musing of bliss, alone; —
Alone? — no, not alone — that heavy sigh,
That sob of grief, which broke from some one nigh —
Whose could it be? — alas! is misery found
Here, even here, on this enchanted ground?
He turns, and sees a female form, close veil'd,
Leaning, as if both heart and strength had fail'd,
Against a pillar near; — not glitt'ring o'er
With gems and wreaths, such as the others wore,
But in that deep-blue, melancholy dress,[3]
BOKHARA's maidens wear in mindfulness,
Of friends or kindred, dead or far away; —
And such as ZELICA had on that day
He left her — when, with heart too full to speak,
He took away her last warm tears upon his cheek.

A strange emotion stirs within him — more
Than mere compassion ever wak'd before;
Unconsciously he opes his arms, while she
Springs forward, as with life's last energy,
But, swooning in that one convulsive bound,
Sinks, ere she reach his arms, upon the ground; —
Her veil falls off — her faint hands clasp his knees —
'Tis she herself! — 'tis ZELICA he sees!
But, ah, so pale, so chang'd — none but a lover
Could in that wreck of beauty's shrine discover
The once-ador'd divinity — ev'n he
Stood for some moments mute, and doubtingly
Put back the ringlets from her brow, and gaz'd
Upon those lids, where once such lustre blaz'd,
Ere he could think she was *indeed* his own,
Own darling maid, whom he so long had known
In joy and sorrow, beautiful in both;
Who, ev'n when grief was heaviest — when loth
He left her for the wars — in that worst hour
Sat in her sorrow like the sweet night-flow'r,[4]
When darkness brings its weeping glories out,
And spreads its sighs like frankincense about.

"Look up, my ZELICA — one moment show
"Those gentle eyes to me, that I may know
"Thy life, thy loveliness is not all gone;
"But *there*, at least, shines as it ever shone.
"Come, look upon thy AZIM — one dear glance,
"Like those of old, were heav'n! whatever chance
"Hath brought thee here, oh, 'twas a blessed one!
"There — my lov'd lips — they move — that kiss hath run
"Like the first shoot of life through every vein,
"And now I clasp her, mine, all mine again.
"Oh the delight — now, in this very hour,
"When had the whole rich world been in my pow'r,
"I should have singled out thee, only thee,
"From the whole world's collected treasury —
"To have thee here — to hang thus fondly o'er
"My own, best, purest ZELICA once more!"

[1] The wife of Potiphar, thus named by the Orientals.
The passion which this frail beauty of antiquity conceived for her young Hebrew slave has given rise to a much-esteemed poem in the Persian language, entitled *Yusef van Zelikha*, by *Nouredin Jami*, the manuscript copy of which, in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, is supposed to be the finest in the whole world." — *Note upon Nott's Translation of Hafez.*

[2] The particulars of Mahomet's amour with Mary, the Coptic girl, in justification of which he added a new chapter to the Koran, may be found in *Gagnier's Notes upon Abulfeda*, p. 151.

[3] "Deep blue is their mourning colour." — *Hanway.*

[4] The sorrowful nyctanthes, which begins to spread its rich odour after sunset.

It was indeed the touch of those fond lips
Upon her eyes that chas'd their short eclipse,
And, gradual as the snow, at Heaven's breath,
Melts off and shows the azure flow'rs beneath,
Her lids unclos'd, and the bright eyes were seen
Gazing on his — not, as they late had been,
Quick, restless, wild, but mournfully serene;
As if to lie, ev'n for that tranced minute,
So near his heart, had consolation in it;
And thus to wake in his belov'd caress
Took from her soul one half its wretchedness.
But, when she heard him call her good and pure,
Oh, 'twas too much — too dreadful to endure!
Shudd'ring she broke away from his embrace,
And, hiding with both hands her guilty face,
Said, in a tone whose anguish would have riv'n
A heart of very marble, "Pure! — oh Heav'n!" —

That tone — those looks so chang'd — the withering blight,
That sin and sorrow leave where'er they light;
The dead despondency of those sunk eyes,
Where once, had he thus met her by surprise,
He would have seen himself, too happy boy,
Reflected in a thousand lights of joy;
And then the place, — that bright, unholy place,
Where vice lay hid beneath each winning grace
And charm of lux'ry, as the viper weaves
Its wily cov'ring of sweet balsam leaves, —[1]
All struck upon his heart, sudden and cold
As death itself; — it needs not to be told —
No, no — he sees it all, plain as the brand
Of burning shame can mark — whate'er the hand,
That could from Heav'n and him such brightness sever.
'Tis done — to Heav'n and him she's lost for ever!
It was a dreadful moment; not the tears,
The ling'ring, lasting misery of years
Could match that minute's anguish — all the worst
Of sorrow's elements in that dark burst
Broke o'er his soul, and, with one crash of fate,
Laid the whole hopes of his life desolate.

"Oh! curse me not," she cried, as wild he toss'd
His desp'rate hand tow'rds Heav'n — "though I am lost,
"Think not that guilt, that falsehood made me fall,
"No, no — 'twas grief, 'twas madness did it all!
"Nay, doubt me not — though all thy love hath ceas'd —
"I know it hath — yet, yet believe, at least,
"That every spark of reason's light must be
"Quench'd in this brain, ere I could stray from thee.
"They told me thou wert dead — why, Azim, why
"Did we not, both of us, that instant die
"When we were parted? oh! couldst thou but know
"With what a deep devotedness of woe
"I wept thy absence — o'er and o'er again
"Thinking of thee, still thee, till thought grew pain,
"And mem'ry, like a drop that, night and day,
"Falls cold and ceaseless, wore my heart away.
"Didst thou but know how pale I sat at home,
"My eyes still turn'd the way thou wert to come,
"And, all the long, long night of hope and fear,
"Thy voice and step still sounding in my ear —
"Oh God! thou wouldst not wonder that, at last,
"When every hope was all at once o'ercast,
"When I heard frightful voices round me say
"*Azim is dead!* — this wretched brain gave way,
"And I became a wreck, at random driven,
"Without one glimpse of reason or of Heav'n —
"All wild — and even this quenchless love within
"Turn'd to foul fires to light me into sin! —
"Thou pitiest me — I knew thou would'st — that sky
"Hath nought beneath it half so lorn as I.
"The fiend, who lur'd me hither — hist! come near,
"Or thou too, *thou* art lost, if he should hear —
"Told me such things — oh! with such dev'lish art,
"As would have ruin'd ev'n a holier heart —
"Of thee, and of that ever-radiant sphere,
"Where bless'd at length, if I but serv'd *him* here,
"I should for ever live in thy dear sight,
"And drink from those pure eyes eternal light.
"Think, think how lost, how madden'd I must be,
"To hope that guilt could lead to God or thee!
"Thou weep'st for me — do weep — oh, that I durst
"Kiss off that tear! but, no — these lips are curst,
"They must not touch thee; — one divine caress,
"One blessed moment of forgetfulness
"I've had within those arms, and *that* shall lie,
"Surin'd in my soul's deep mem'ry till I die;
"The last of joy's last relics here below,
"The one sweet drop, in all this waste of woe,
"My heart has treasur'd from affection's spring,
"To soothe and cool its deadly withering!
"But thou — yes, thou must go — for ever go;
"This place is not for thee — for thee! oh no:
"Did I but tell thee half, thy tortur'd brain
"Would burn like mine, and mine go wild again!
"Enough, that Guilt reigns here — that hearts, once good,
"Now tainted, chill'd, and broken, are his food —

[1] "Concerning the vipers, which Pliny says were frequent among the balsam-trees, I made very particular inquiry; several were brought me alive both to Yambo and Jidda."— *Bruce.*

" Enough, that we are parted — that there rolls
" A flood of headlong fate between our souls,
" Whose darkness severs me as wide from thee
" As hell from heav'n, to all eternity!"

" ZELICA, ZELICA!" the youth exclaim'd,
In all the tortures of a mind inflam'd
Almost to madness — " by that sacred Heav'n,
" Where yet, if pray'rs can move, thou'lt be forgiv'n,
" As thou art here — here, in this writhing heart,
" All sinful, wild, and ruin'd as thou art!
" By the remembrance of our once pure love,
" Which, like a church-yard light, still burns above
" The grave of our lost souls — which guilt in thee
" Cannot extinguish, nor despair in me!
" I do conjure, implore thee to fly hence —
" If thou hast yet one spark of innocence,
" Fly with me from this place —"
" With thee! oh bliss!
" 'Tis worth whole years of torment to hear this.
" What! take the lost one with thee? — let her rove
" By thy dear side, as in those days of love,
" When we were both so happy, both so pure —
" Too heav'nly dream! if there's on earth a cure
" For the sunk heart, 'tis this — day after day
" To be the blest companion of thy way;
" To hear thy angel eloquence — to see
" Those virtuous eyes for ever turn'd on me;
" And, in their light re-chasten'd silently,
" Like the stain'd web that whitens in the sun,
" Grow pure by being purely shone upon!
" And thou wilt pray for me — I know thou wilt —
" At the dim vesper hour, when thoughts of guilt
" Come heaviest o'er the heart, thou'lt lift thine eyes,
" Full of sweet tears, unto the dark'ning skies,
" And plead for me with Heav'n, till I can dare
" To fix my own weak, sinful glances there;
" Till the good angels, when they see me cling
" For ever near thee, pale and sorrowing,
" Shall for thy sake pronounce my soul forgiv'n,
" And bid thee take thy weeping slave to Heav'n!
" Oh yes, I'll fly with thee ———"
Scarce had she said
These breathless words, when a voice deep and dread
As that of MONKER, waking up the dead
From their first sleep — so startling 'twas to both —
Rung through the casement near, " Thy oath! thy oath!"
Oh Heav'n, the ghastliness of that Maid's look! —
" 'Tis he," faintly she cried, while terror shook
Her inmost core, nor durst she lift her eyes,
Though through the casement, now, nought but the skies
And moonlight fields were seen, calm as before —
" 'Tis he, and I am his — all, all is o'er —
" Go — fly this instant, or thou'rt ruin'd too —
" My oath, my oath, oh God! 'tis all too true,
" True as the worm in this cold heart it is —
" I am MOKANNA'S bride — his, AZIM, his —
" The Dead stood round us, while I spoke that vow,
" Their blue lips echo'd it — I hear them now!
" Their eyes glar'd on me, while I pledg'd that bowl,
" 'Twas burning blood — I feel it in my soul!
" And the Veil'd Bridegroom — hist! I've seen to-night
" What angels know not of — so foul a sight,
" So horrible — oh! never may'st thou see
" What *there* lies hid from all but hell and me!
" But I must hence — off, off — I am not thine,
" Nor Heav'n's, nor Love's, nor aught that is divine —
" Hold me not — ha! think'st thou the fiends that sever
" Hearts, cannot sunder hands? — thus, then — for ever!"

With all that strength, which madness lends the weak,
She flung away his arm; and, with a shriek,
Whose sound, though he should linger out more years
Than wretch e'er told, can never leave his ears —
Flew up through that long avenue of light,
Fleetly as some dark, ominous bird of night,
Across the sun, and soon was out of sight!

LALLA ROOKH could think of nothing all day but the misery of these two young lovers. Her gaiety was gone, and she looked pensively even upon FADLADEEN. She felt, too, without knowing why, a sort of uneasy pleasure in imagining that AZIM must have been just such a youth as FERAMORZ; just as worthy to enjoy all the blessings, without any of the pangs, of that illusive passion, which too often, like the sunny apples of Istkahar[1], is all sweetness on one side, and all bitterness on the other.

As they passed along a sequestered river after sunset, they saw a young Hindoo girl upon the bank[2], whose employment seemed to them so

[1] " In the territory of Istkahar there is a kind of apple, half of which is sweet and half sour." — *Ebn Haukal.*

[2] For an account of this ceremony, see *Grandpré*'s Voyage in the Indian Ocean.

strange, that they stopped their palankeens to observe her. She had lighted a small lamp, filled with oil of cocoa, and placing it in an earthen dish, adorned with a wreath of flowers, had committed it with a trembling hand to the stream; and was now anxiously watching its progress down the current, heedless of the gay cavalcade which had drawn up beside her. LALLA ROOKH was all curiosity;—when one of her attendants, who had lived upon the banks of the Ganges, where this ceremony is so frequent, that often, in the dusk of the evening, the river is seen glittering all over with lights, like the Oton-Tala, or Sea of Stars[1],) informed the Princess that it was the usual way, in which the friends of those who had gone on dangerous voyages offered up vows for their safe return. If the lamp sunk immediately, the omen was disastrous; but if it went shining down the stream, and continued to burn till entirely out of sight, the return of the beloved object was considered as certain.

LALLA ROOKH, as they moved on, more than once looked back, to observe how the young Hindoo's lamp proceeded; and, while she saw with pleasure that it was still unextinguished, she could not help fearing that all the hopes of this life were no better than that feeble light upon the river. The remainder of the journey was passed in silence. She now, for the first time, felt that shade of melancholy, which comes over the youthful maiden's heart, as sweet and transient as her own breath upon a mirror; nor was it till she heard the lute of FERAMORZ, touched lightly at the door of her pavilion, that she waked from the reverie in which she had been wandering. Instantly her eyes were lighted up with pleasure; and, after a few unheard remarks from FADLADEEN upon the indecorum of a poet seating himself in presence of a Princess, every thing was arranged as on the preceding evening, and all listened with eagerness, while the story was thus continued:—

WHOSE are the gilded tents that crowd the way,
Where all was waste and silent yesterday?
This City of War which, in a few short hours,
Hath sprung up here[2], as if the magic powers
Of Him who, in the twinkling of a star,
Built the high pillar'd halls of CHILMINAR,[3]
Had conjur'd up, far as the eye can see,
This world of tents, and domes, and sun-bright armory:—
Princely pavilions, screen'd by many a fold
Of crimson cloth, and topp'd with balls of gold:—
Steeds, with their housings of rich silver spun,
Their chains and poitrels glitt'ring in the sun;
And camels, tufted o'er with Yemen's shells,[4]
Shaking in every breeze their light-ton'd bells!

But yester-eve, so motionless around,
So mute was this wide plain, that not a sound
But the far torrent, or the locust bird[5]
Hunting among the thickets, could be heard;—
Yet hark! what discords now, of ev'ry kind,
Shouts, laughs, and screams are revelling in the wind;
The neigh of cavalry;—the tinkling throngs
Of laden camels and their drivers' songs;[6]—

[1] "The place where the Whangho, a river of Thibet, rises, and where there are more than a hundred springs, which sparkle like stars; whence it is called Hotun-nor, that is, the Sea of Stars."—*Description of Thibet in Pinkerton.*

[2] "The Lescar or Imperial Camp is divided, like a regular town, into squares, alleys, and streets, and from a rising ground furnishes one of the most agreeable prospects in the world. Starting up in a few hours in an uninhabited plain, it raises the idea of a city built by enchantment. Even those who leave their houses in cities to follow the prince in his progress are frequently so charmed with the Lescar, when situated in a beautiful and convenient place, that they cannot prevail with themselves to remove. To prevent this inconvenience to the court, the Emperor, after sufficient time is allowed to the tradesmen to follow, orders them to be burnt out of their tents."—*Dow*'s Hindostan.

Colonel Wilks gives a lively picture of an Eastern encampment:—"His camp, like that of most Indian armies, exhibited a motley collection of covers from the scorching sun and dews of the night, variegated according to the taste or means of each individual, by extensive inclosures of coloured calico surrounding superb suites of tents; by ragged clothes or blankets stretched over sticks or branches; palm-leaves hastily spread over similar supports; handsome tents and splendid canopies; horses, oxen, elephants, and camels; all intermixed without any exterior mark of order or design, except the flags of the chiefs, which usually mark the centres of a congeries of these masses; the only regular part of the encampment being the streets of shops, each of which is constructed nearly in the manner of a booth at an English fair."—*Historical Sketches of the South of India.*

[3] The edifices of Chilminar and Balbec are supposed to have been built by the Genii, acting under the orders of Jan ben Jan, who governed the world long before the time of Adam.

[4] "A superb camel, ornamented with strings and tufts of small shells."—*Ali Bey.*

[5] A native of Khorassan, and allured southward by means of the water of a fountain between Shiraz and Ispahan, called the Fountain of Birds, of which it is so fond that it will follow wherever that water is carried.

[6] "Some of the camels have bells about their necks, and some about their legs, like those which our carriers put about their fore-horses' necks, which together with the servants (who belong to the camels, and travel on foot,) singing all night, make a pleasant noise, and the journey passes away delightfully."—*Pitt*'s Account of the Mahometans.

"The camel-driver follows the camels singing, and sometimes playing upon his pipe; the louder he sings and pipes, the faster the camels go. Nay, they will stand still when he gives over his music."—*Tavernier.*

Ringing of arms, and flapping in the breeze
Of streamers from ten thousand canopies;—
War-music, bursting out from time to time,
With gong and tymbalon's tremendous chime;—
Or, in the pause, when harsher sounds are mute,
The mellow breathings of some horn or flute,
That far off, broken by the eagle note
Of the' Abyssinian trumpet[1], swell and float.

Who leads this mighty army?—ask ye "who?"
And mark ye not those banners of dark hue,
The Night and Shadow[2], over yonder tent?—
It is the CALIPH'S glorious armament.
Rous'd in his Palace by the dread alarms,
That hourly came, of the false Prophet's arms,
And of his host of infidels, who hurl'd
Defiance fierce at Islam[3] and the world,—
Though worn with Grecian warfare, and behind
The veils of his bright Palace calm reclin'd,
Yet brook'd he not such blasphemy should stain,
Thus unreveng'd, the evening of his reign;
But, having sworn upon the Holy Grave[4]
To conquer or to perish, once more gave
His shadowy banners proudly to the breeze,
And with an army, nurs'd in victories,
Here stands to crush the rebels that o'er-run
His blest and beauteous Province of the Sun.

Ne'er did the march of MAHADI display
Such pomp before;—not ev'n when on his way
To MECCA'S Temple, when both land and sea
Were spoil'd to feed the Pilgrim's luxury;[5]
When round him, mid the burning sands, he saw
Fruits of the North in icy freshness thaw,
And cool'd his thirsty lip, beneath the glow
Of MECCA'S sun, with urns of Persian snow:—[6]
Nor e'er did armament more grand than that
Pour from the kingdoms of the Caliphat.

First, in the van, the People of the Rock,[7]
On their light mountain steeds, of royal stock:[8]
Then, chieftains of DAMASCUS, proud to see
The flashing of their swords' rich marquetry;—[9]
Men, from the regions near the VOLGA'S mouth,
Mix'd with the rude, black archers of the South;
And Indian lancers, in white-turban'd ranks,
From the far SINDE, or ATTOCK'S sacred banks,
With dusky legions from the Land of Myrrh,[10]
And many a mace-arm'd Moor and Mid-sea islander.

Nor less in number, though more new and rude
In warfare's school, was the vast multitude
That, fir'd by zeal, or by oppression wrong'd,
Round the white standard of the' impostor throng'd.
Beside his thousands of Believers—blind,
Burning and headlong as the Samiel wind—
Many who felt, and more who fear'd to feel
The bloody Islamite's converting steel,
Flock'd to his banner;—Chiefs of the' UZBEK race,
Waving their heron crests with martial grace;[11]
TURKOMANS, countless as their flocks, led forth
From the' aromatic pastures of the North;
Wild warriors of the turquoise hills[12],—and those
Who dwell beyond the everlasting snows
Of HINDOO KOSH[13], in stormy freedom bred,
Their fort the rock, their camp the torrent's bed.
But none, of all who own'd the Chief's command,
Rush'd to that battle-field with bolder hand,
Or sterner hate, than IRAN'S outlaw'd men,
Her Worshippers of Fire—all panting then
For vengeance on the' accursed Saracen;
Vengeance at last for their dear country spurn'd,
Her throne usurp'd, and her bright shrines o'erturn'd.
From YEZD'S[15] eternal Mansion of the Fire,
Where aged saints in dreams of Heav'n expire:

[1] "This trumpet is often called, in Abyssinia, *nesser cano*, which signifies the Note of the Eagle."—*Note of Bruce's Editor.*

[2] The two black standards borne before the Caliphs of the House of Abbas were called, allegorically, The Night and The Shadow.—See *Gibbon.*

[3] The Mahometan religion.

[4] "The Persians swear by the Tomb of Shah Besade, who is buried at Casbin; and when one desires another to asseverate a matter, he will ask him, if he dare swear by the Holy Grave."—*Struy.*

[5] Mahadi, in a single pilgrimage to Mecca, expended six millions of dinars of gold.

[6] Nivem Meccam apportavit, rem ibi aut nunquam aut raro visam.—*Abulfeda.*

[7] The inhabitants of Hejaz or Arabia Petræa, called by an Eastern writer "The People of the Rock."—*Ebn Haukal.*

[8] "Those horses, called by the Arabians Kochlani, of whom a written genealogy has been kept for 2000 years. They are said to derive their origin from King Solomon's steeds."—*Niebuhr.*

[9] "Many of the figures on the blades of their swords are wrought in gold or silver, or in marquetry with small gems."—*Asiat. Misc.* v. i.

[10] Azab or Saba.

[11] "The chiefs of the Uzbek Tartars wear a plume of white heron's feathers in their turbans."—*Account of Independent Tartary.*

[12] In the mountains of Nishapour and Tous (in Khorassan) they find turquoises.—*Ebn Haukal.*

[13] For a description of these stupendous ranges of mountains, see *Elphinstone's Caubul.*

[14] The Ghebers or Guebres, those original natives of Persia, who adhered to their ancient faith, the religion of Zoroaster, and who, after the conquest of their country by the Arabs, were either persecuted at home, or forced to become wanderers abroad.

[15] "Yezd, the chief residence of those ancient natives, who worship the Sun and the Fire, which latter they have carefully kept lighted, without being once extinguished for a moment, about 3000 years, on a mountain near Yezd, called Ater Quedah, signifying the House or Mansion of the Fire. He is reckoned very unfortunate who dies off that mountain."—*Stephen's Persia.*

From BADKU, and those fountains of blue flame
That burn into the CASPIAN [1], fierce they came,
Careless for what or whom the blow was sped,
So vengeance triumph'd, and their tyrants bled.

Such was the wild and miscellaneous host,
That high in air their motley banners tost
Round the Prophet-Chief—all eyes still bent
Upon that glittering Veil, where'er it went,
That beacon through the battle's stormy flood,
That rainbow of the field, whose showers were
blood!

Twice hath the sun upon their conflict set,
And risen again, and found them grappling yet;
While streams of carnage in his noontide blaze,
Smoke up to Heav'n—hot as that crimson haze,
Or which the prostrate Caravan is aw'd,[2]
In the red Desert, when the wind's abroad.
"On, Swords of God!" the panting CALIPH calls,—
"Thrones for the living—Heav'n for him who
falls!"—
"On, brave avengers, on," MOKANNA cries,
"And EBLIS blast the recreant slave that flies!"
Now comes the brunt, the crisis of the day—
They clash—they strive—the CALIPH'S troops
give way!
MOKANNA'S self plucks the black Banner down,
And now the Orient World's Imperial crown
Is just within his grasp—when, hark, that shout!
Some hand hath check'd the flying Moslem's rout;
And now they turn, they rally—at their head
A warrior, (like those angel youths who led,
In glorious panoply of Heav'n's own mail,
The Champions of the Faith through BEDER'S
vale,) [3]
Bold as if gifted with ten thousand lives,
Turns on the fierce pursuer's blades, and drives
At once the multitudinous torrent back—
While hope and courage kindle in his track;
And, at each step, his bloody falchion makes
Terrible vistas through which vict'ry breaks!
In vain MOKANNA, midst the general flight,
Stands, like the red moon, on some stormy night,
Among the fugitive clouds that, hurrying by,
Leave only her unshaken in the sky—
In vain he yells his desperate curses out,
Deals death promiscuously to all about,
To foes that charge and coward friends that fly,
And seems of *all* the Great Arch-enemy.
The panic spreads—"A miracle!" throughout
The Moslem ranks, "a miracle!" they shout,
All gazing on that youth, whose coming seems
A light, a glory, such as breaks in dreams;
And ev'ry sword, true as o'er billows dim
The needle tracks the load-star, following him!

Right tow'rds MOKANNA now he cleaves his
path,
Impatient cleaves, as though the bolt of wrath
He bears from Heav'n withheld its awful burst
From weaker heads, and souls but half way curst,
To break o'er Him, the mightiest and the worst!
But vain his speed—though, in that hour of
blood,
Had all God's seraphs round MOKANNA stood,
With swords of fire, ready like fate to fall,
MOKANNA'S soul would have defied them all;
Yet now, the rush of fugitives, too strong
For human force, hurries ev'n *him* along:
In vain he struggles 'mid the wedg'd array
Of flying thousands—he is borne away;
And the sole joy his baffled spirit knows,
In this forc'd flight, is—murd'ring as he goes!
As a grim tiger, whom the torrent's might
Surprises in some parch'd ravine at night,
Turns, ev'n in drowning, on the wretched flocks,
Swept with him in that snow-flood from the rocks,
And, to the last, devouring on his way,
Bloodies the stream he hath not power to stay.

"Alla illa Alla!"—the glad shout renew—
"Alla Akbar!" [4]—the Caliph's in MEROU.
Hang out your gilded tapestry in the streets,
And light your shrines and chaunt your ziraleets. [5]
The Swords of God have triumph'd—on his
throne
Your Caliph sits, and the veil'd Chief hath flown.
Who does not envy that young warrior now,
To whom the Lord of Islam bends his brow,
In all the graceful gratitude of power,
For his throne's safety in that perilous hour?

[1] "When the weather is hazy, the springs of Naphtha (on an island near Baku) boil up the higher, and the Naphtha often takes fire on the surface of the earth, and runs in a flame into the sea to a distance almost incredible."—*Hanway on the Everlasting Fire at Baku.*

[2] *Savary* says of the south wind, which blows in Egypt from February to May, "Sometimes it appears only in the shape of an impetuous whirlwind, which passes rapidly, and is fatal to the traveller, surprised in the middle of the deserts. Torrents of burning sand roll before it, the firmament is enveloped in a thick veil, and the sun appears of the colour of blood. Sometimes whole caravans are buried in it."

[3] In the great victory gained by Mahomed at Beder, he was assisted, say the Mussulmans, by three thousand angels, led by Gabriel, mounted on his horse Hiazum.—See *The Koran and its Commentators.*

[4] The Tecbir, or cry of the Arabs. "Alla Acbar!" says Ockley, means, "God is most mighty."

[5] The ziraleet is a kind of chorus, which the women of the East sing upon joyful occasions.—*Russel.*

Who doth not wonder, when, amidst the' acclaim
Of thousands, heralding to heaven his name —
'Mid all those holier harmonies of fame,
Which sound along the path of virtuous souls,
Like music round a planet as it rolls, —
He turns away — coldly, as if some gloom
Hung o'er his heart no triumphs can illume; —
Some sightless grief, upon whose blasted gaze
Though glory's light may play, in vain it plays.
Yes, wretched AZIM! thine is such a grief,
Beyond all hope, all terror, all relief;
A dark, cold calm, which nothing now can break,
Or warm or brighten, — like that Syrian Lake,[1]
Upon whose surface morn and summer shed
Their smiles in vain, for all beneath is dead! —
Hearts there have been, o'er which this weight of woe
Came by long use of suff'ring, tame and slow;
But thine, lost youth! was sudden — over thee
It broke at once, when all seem'd ecstasy;
When Hope look'd up, and saw the gloomy Past
Melt into splendour, and Bliss dawn at last —
'Twas then, ev'n then, o'er joys so freshly blown,
This mortal blight of misery came down;
Ev'n then, the full, warm gushings of thy heart
Were check'd — like fount-drops, frozen as they start —
And there, like them, cold, sunless relics hang,
Each fix'd and chill'd into a lasting pang.

One sole desire, one passion now remains
To keep life's fever still within his veins,
Vengeance! — dire vengeance on the wretch who cast
O'er him and all he lov'd that ruinous blast.
For this, when rumours reach'd him in his flight
Far, far away, after that fatal night, —
Rumours of armies, thronging to the' attack
Of the Veil'd Chief, — for this he wing'd him back,
Fleet as the vulture speeds to flags unfurl'd,
And, when all hope seem'd desp'rate, wildly hurl'd
Himself into the scale, and sav'd a world.
For this he still lives on, careless of all
The wreaths that Glory on his path lets fall;
For this alone exists — like lightning-fire,
To speed one bolt of vengeance, and expire!

But safe as yet that Spirit of Evil lives;
With a small band of desp'rate fugitives,
The last sole stubborn fragment, left unriv'n,
Of the proud host that late stood fronting Heav'n,
He gain'd MEROU — breath'd a short curse of blood
O'er his lost throne — then pass'd the JIHON's flood,[2]
And gath'ring all, whose madness of belief
Still saw a Saviour in their down-fall'n Chief,
Rais'd the white banner within NEKSHEB's gates,
And there, untam'd, the' approaching conq'ror waits.

Of all his Haram, all that busy hive
With music and with sweets sparkling alive,
He took but one, the partner of his flight,
One — not for love — not for her beauty's light —
No, ZELICA stood with'ring 'midst the gay,
Wan as the blossom that fell yesterday
From the' Alma tree and dies, while overhead
To-day's young flow'r is springing in its stead.[4]
Oh, not for love — the deepest Damn'd must be
Touch'd with Heaven's glory, ere such fiends as he
Can feel one glimpse of Love's divinity.
But no, she is his victim; — *there* lie all
Her charms for him — charms that can never pall,
As long as hell within his heart can stir,
Or one faint trace of Heaven is left in her.
To work an angel's ruin, — to behold
As white a page as Virtue e'er unroll'd
Blacken, beneath his touch, into a scroll
Of damning sins, seal'd with a burning soul —
This is his triumph; this the joy accurst,
That ranks him among demons all but first:
This gives the victim, that before him lies
Blighted and lost, a glory in his eyes,
A light like that with which hell-fire illumes
The ghastly, writhing wretch whom it consumes!

But other tasks now wait him — tasks that need
All the deep daringness of thought and deed
With which the Dives[5] have gifted him — for mark,
Over yon plains, which night had else made dark,
Those lanterns, countless as the winged lights
That spangle INDIA's fields on show'ry nights, —[6]
Far as their formidable gleams they shed,
The mighty tents of the beleaguerer spread,
Glimm'ring along the' horizon's dusky line,
And thence in nearer circles, till they shine
Among the founts and groves, o'er which the town
In all its arm'd magnificence looks down.
Yet, fearless, from his lofty battlements
MOKANNA views that multitude of tents;

[1] The Dead Sea, which contains neither animal nor vegetable life.

[2] The ancient Oxus.

[3] A city of Transoxiana.

[4] "You never can cast your eyes on this tree, but you meet there either blossoms or fruit; and as the blossom drops underneath on the ground (which is frequently covered with these purple-coloured flowers) others come forth in their stead," &c. &c. — *Nieuhoff.*

[5] The Demons of the Persian mythology.

[6] Carreri mentions the fire-flies in India during the rainy season. — See his Travels.

ay, smiles to think that, though entoil'd, beset,
ot less than myriads dare to front him yet;—
hat friendless, throneless, he thus stands at bay,
v'n thus a match for myriads such as they.
Oh, for a sweep of that dark Angel's wing,
Who brush'd the thousands of the' Assyrian King[1]
To darkness in a moment, that I might
People Hell's chambers with yon host to-night!
But, come what may, let who will grasp the throne,
Caliph or Prophet, Man alike shall groan;
Let who will torture him, Priest—Caliph—King—
Alike this loathsome world of his shall ring
With victims' shrieks and howlings of the slave,—
Sounds, that shall glad me ev'n within my grave!"
Thus, to himself—but to the scanty train
Still left around him, a far different strain:—
"Glorious Defenders of the sacred Crown
"I bear from Heav'n, whose light nor blood shall drown
"Nor shadow of earth eclipse;—before whose gems
"The paly pomp of this world's diadems,
"The crown of GERASHID, the pillar'd throne
"Of PARVIZ[2], and the heron crest that shone,[3]
"Magnificent, o'er ALI's beauteous eyes,[4]
"Fade like the stars when morn is in the skies:
"Warriors, rejoice—the port to which we've pass'd
"O'er Destiny's dark wave, beams out at last!
"Vict'ry's our own—'tis written in that Book
"Upon whose leaves none but the angels look,
"That ISLAM'S sceptre shall beneath the power
"Of her great foe fall broken in that hour,
"When the moon's mighty orb, before all eyes,
"From NEKSHEB'S Holy Well portentously shall rise!
"Now turn and see!"——
They turn'd, and, as he spoke,
A sudden splendour all around them broke,
And they beheld an orb, ample and bright,
Rise from the Holy Well[5], and cast its light
Round the rich city and the plain for miles,—[6]
Flinging such radiance o'er the gilded tiles
Of many a dome and fair-roof'd imaret,
As autumn suns shed round them when they set.
Instant from all who saw the' illusive sign
A murmur broke—"Miraculous! divine!"
The Gheber bow'd, thinking his idol star
Had wak'd, and burst impatient through the bar
Of midnight, to inflame him to the war;
While he of MOUSSA's creed saw, in that ray,
The glorious Light which, in his freedom's day,
Had rested on the Ark[7], and now again
Shone out to bless the breaking of his chain.

"To victory!" is at once the cry of all—
Nor stands MOKANNA loit'ring at that call;
But instant the huge gates are flung aside,
And forth, like a diminutive mountain-tide
Into the boundless sea, they speed their course
Right on into the MOSLEM's mighty force.
The watchmen of the camp,—who, in their rounds,
Had paus'd, and ev'n forgot the punctual sounds
Of the small drum with which they count the night,[8]
To gaze upon that supernatural light,—
Now sink beneath an unexpected arm,
And in a death-groan give their last alarm.
"On for the lamps, that light yon lofty screen,[9]
"Nor blunt your blades with massacre so mean;
"*There* rests the CALIPH—speed—one lucky lance
"May now achieve mankind's deliverance."
Desp'rate the die—such as they only cast,
Who venture for a world, and stake their last.
But Fate's no longer with him—blade for blade
Springs up to meet them thro' the glimm'ring shade,

[1] Sennacherib, called by the Orientals King of Moussal. —*D'Herbelot.*

[2] Chosroes. For the description of his Throne or Palace, see *Gibbon* and *D'Herbelot.*

There were said to be under this Throne or Palace of Khosrou Parviz a hundred vaults filled with "treasures so immense that some Mahometan writers tell us, their Prophet, to encourage his disciples, carried them to a rock, which at his command opened, and gave them a prospect through it of the treasures of Khosrou."—*Universal History.*

[3] "The crown of Gerashid is cloudy and tarnished before the heron tuft of thy turban."—From one of the elegies or songs in praise of Ali, written in characters of gold round the gallery of Abbas's tomb.—See *Chardin.*

[4] The beauty of Ali's eyes was so remarkable, that whenever the Persians would describe any thing as very lovely, they say it is Ayn Hali, or the Eyes of Ali.—*Chardin.*

[5] We are not told more of this trick of the Impostor, than that it was "une machine, qu'il disoit être la Lune." According to Richardson, the miracle is perpetuated in Nekscheb.—"Nakshab, the name of a city in Transoxiana, where they say there is a well, in which the appearance of the moon is to be seen night and day."

[6] "Il amusa pendant deux mois le peuple de la ville de Nekhscheb, en faisant sortir toutes les nuits du fond d'un puits un corps lumineux semblable à la Lune, qui portoit sa lumière jusqu'à la distance de plusieurs milles."—*D'Herbelot.* Hence he was called Sazendéhmah, or the Moon-maker.

[7] The Shechinah, called Sakinat in the Koran.—See *Sale's Note*, chap. ii.

[8] The parts of the night are made known as well by instruments of music, as by the rounds of the watchmen with cries and small drums.—See *Burder's Oriental Customs*, vol. i. p. 119.

[9] The Serrapurda, high screens of red cloth, stiffened with cane, used to enclose a considerable space round the royal tents.—*Notes on the Bahardanush.*

The tents of Princes were generally illuminated. Norden tells us that the tent of the Bey of Girge was distinguished from the other tents by forty lanterns being suspended before it.—See *Harmer's* Observations on Job.

And, as the clash is heard, new legions soon
Pour to the spot, like bees of KAUZEROON [1]
To the shrill timbrel's summons,—till, at length,
The mighty camp swarms out in all its strength,
And back to NEKSHEB's gates, covering the plain
With random slaughter, drives the adventurous train;
Among the last of whom the Silver Veil
Is seen glitt'ring at times, like the white sail
Of some toss'd vessel, on a stormy night,
Catching the tempest's momentary light!

And hath not *this* brought the proud spirit low?
Nor dash'd his brow, nor check'd his daring? No.
Though half the wretches, whom at night he led
To thrones and vict'ry, lie disgrac'd and dead,
Yet morning hears him with unshrinking crest,
Still vaunt of thrones, and vict'ry to the rest;—
And they believe him!—oh, the lover may
Distrust that look which steals his soul away;—
The babe may cease to think that it can play
With Heaven's rainbow;—alchymists may doubt
The shining gold their crucible gives out;
But Faith, fanatic Faith, once wedded fast
To some dear falsehood, hugs it to the last.

And well the' Impostor knew all lures and arts,
That LUCIFER e'er taught to tangle hearts;
Nor, 'mid these last bold workings of his plot
Against men's souls, is ZELICA forgot.
Ill-fated ZELICA! had reason been
Awake, through half the horrors thou hast seen,
Thou never could'st have borne it—Death had come
At once, and taken thy wrung spirit home.
But 'twas not so—a torpor, a suspense
Of thought, almost of life, came o'er the intense
And passionate struggles of that fearful night,
When her last hope of peace and heav'n took flight:
And though, at times, a gleam of frenzy broke,—
As through some dull volcano's vale of smoke
Ominous flashings now and then will start,
Which show the fire's still busy at its heart;
Yet was she mostly wrapp'd in solemn gloom,—
Not such as AZIM's, brooding o'er its doom,
And calm without, as is the brow of death,
While busy worms are gnawing underneath—
But in a blank and pulseless torpor, free
From thought or pain, a seal'd-up apathy,
Which left her oft, with scarce one living thrill,
The cold, pale victim of her tort'rer's will.

Again, as in MEROU, he had her deck'd
Gorgeously out, the Priestess of the sect;
And led her glitt'ring forth before the eyes
Of his rude train, as to a sacrifice,—
Pallid as she, the young, devoted Bride
Of the fierce NILE, when, deck'd in all the pride
Of nuptial pomp, she sinks into his tide.[2]
And while the wretched maid hung down her head,
And stood, as one just risen from the dead,
Amid that gazing crowd, the fiend would tell
His credulous slaves it was some charm or spell
Possess'd her now,—and from that darken'd trance
Should dawn ere long their Faith's deliverance.
Or if, at times, goaded by guilty shame,
Her soul was rous'd, and words of wildness came,
Instant the bold blasphemer would translate
Her ravings into oracles of fate,
Would hail Heav'n's signals in her flashing eyes,
And call her shrieks the language of the skies!

But vain at length his arts—despair is seen
Gath'ring around; and famine comes to glean
All that the sword had left unreap'd:—in vain
At morn and eve across the northern plain
He looks impatient for the promis'd spears
Of the wild Hordes and TARTAR mountaineers;
They come not—while his fierce beleaguerers pour
Engines of havoc in, unknown before,[3]

[1] "From the groves of orange trees at Kauzeroon the bees cull a celebrated honey."—*Morier's Travels.*

[2] "A custom still subsisting at this day, seems to me to prove that the Egyptians formerly sacrificed a young virgin to the God of the Nile; for they now make a statue of earth in shape of a girl, to which they give the name of the Betrothed Bride, and throw it into the river."—*Savary.*

[3] That they knew the secret of the Greek fire among the Mussulmans early in the eleventh century, appears from *Dow*'s Account of Mamood I. "When he arrived at Moultan, finding that the country of the Jits was defended by great rivers, he ordered fifteen hundred boats to be built, each of which he armed with six iron spikes, projecting from their prows and sides, to prevent their being boarded by the enemy, who were very expert in that kind of war. When he had launched this fleet, he ordered twenty archers into each boat, and five others with fire-balls, to burn the craft of the Jits, and naphtha to set the whole river on fire."

The *agnee aster*, too, in Indian poems the Instrument of Fire, whose flame cannot be extinguished, is supposed to signify the Greek Fire.—See *Wilks*'s South of India, vol. i. p. 471.—And in the curious Javan poem, the *Brata Yudha* given by *Sir Stamford Raffles* in his History of Java, we find, "He aimed at the heart of Soëta with the sharp-pointed Weapon of Fire."

The mention of gunpowder as in use among the Arabians, long before its supposed discovery in Europe, is introduced by *Ebn Fadhl*, the Egyptian geographer, who lived in the thirteenth century. "Bodies," he says, "in the form of scorpions, bound round and filled with nitrous powder, glide along, making a gentle noise; then, exploding, they lighten, as it were, and burn. But there are others which, cast into the air, stretch along like a cloud, roaring horribly, as thunder roars, and on all sides vomiting out flames, burst, burn, and reduce to cinders whatever comes in their way." The historian *Ben Abdalla*, in speaking of the sieges of Abulualid in the year of the Hegira 712, says, "A fiery globe, by means of combustible matter, with a mighty noise suddenly emitted,

And horrible as new[1];—javelins, that fly
Enwreath'd with smoky flames through the dark sky,
And red-hot globes, that, opening as they mount,
Discharge, as from a kindled Naphtha fount,[2]
Show'rs of consuming fire o'er all below;
Looking, as through the' illumin'd night they go,
Like those wild birds[3] that by the Magians oft,
At festivals of fire, were sent aloft
Into the air, with blazing faggots tied
To their huge wings, scatt'ring combustion wide.
All night the groans of wretches who expire,
In agony, beneath these darts of fire,
Ring through the city—while, descending o'er
Its shrines and domes and streets of sycamore,—
Its lone bazars, with their bright cloths of gold,
Since the last peaceful pageant left unroll'd,—
Its beauteous marble baths, whose idle jets
Now gush with blood,—and its tall minarets,
That late have stood up in the ev'ning glare
Of the red sun, unhallow'd by a prayer;—
O'er each, in turn, the dreadful flame-bolts fall,
And death and conflagration throughout all
The desolate city hold high festival!

Mokanna sees the world is his no more;—
One sting at parting, and his grasp is o'er.
"What! drooping now?"—thus, with unblushing cheek,
He hails the few, who yet can hear him speak,
Of all those famish'd slaves around him lying,
And by the light of blazing temples dying;—
"What!—drooping now?—now, when at length we press
"Home o'er the very threshold of success;
"When Alla from our ranks hath thinn'd away
"Those grosser branches, that kept out his ray
"Of favour from us, and we stand at length
"Heirs of his light and children of his strength,
"The chosen few, who shall survive the fall
"Of Kings and Thrones, triumphant over all!
"Have you then lost, weak murm'rers as you are,
"All faith in him, who was your Light, your Star?
"Have you forgot the eye of glory, hid
"Beneath this Veil, the flashing of whose lid
"Could, like a sun-stroke of the desert, wither
"Millions of such as yonder Chief brings hither?
"Long have its lightnings slept—too long—but now
"All earth shall feel the' unveiling of this brow!
"To-night—yes, sainted men! this very night,
"I bid you all to a fair festal rite,
"Where—having deep refresh'd each weary limb
"With viands, such as feast Heav'n's cherubim,
"And kindled up your souls, now sunk and dim,
"With that pure wine the Dark-ey'd Maids above
"Keep, seal'd with precious musk, for those they love,—[4]
"I will myself uncurtain in your sight
"The wonders of this brow's ineffable light;
"Then lead you forth, and with a wink disperse
"Yon myriads, howling through the universe!"

Eager they listen—while each accent darts
New life into their chill'd and hope-sick hearts;
Such treach'rous life as the cool draught supplies
To him upon the stake, who drinks and dies!
Wildly they point their lances to the light
Of the fast sinking sun, and shout "To-night!"—
"To-night," their Chief re-echoes in a voice
Of fiend-like mock'ry that bids hell rejoice.
Deluded victims!—never hath this earth
Seen mourning half so mournful as their mirth.
Here, to the few, whose iron frames had stood
This racking waste of famine and of blood,
Faint, dying wretches clung, from whom the shout
Of triumph like a maniac's laugh broke out:—
There, others, lighted by the smould'ring fire,
Danc'd, like wan ghosts about a funeral pyre,
Among the dead and dying, strew'd around;—
While some pale wretch look'd on, and from his wound

strikes with the force of lightning, and shakes the citadel."—See the extracts from *Casiri*'s Biblioth. Arab. Hispan. in the Appendix to *Berington*'s Literary History of the Middle Ages.

[1] The Greek fire, which was occasionally lent by the emperors to their allies. "It was," says Gibbon, "either launched in red-hot balls of stone and iron, or darted in arrows and javelins, twisted round with flax and tow, which had deeply imbibed the inflammable oil."

[2] See *Hanway*'s Account of the Springs of Naphtha at Baku (which is called by *Lieutenant Pottinger* Joala Mookee, or, the Flaming Mouth,) taking fire and running into the sea. *Dr. Cooke*, in his Journal, mentions some wells in Circassia, strongly impregnated with this inflammable oil, from which issues boiling water. "Though the weather," he adds, "was now very cold, the warmth of these wells of hot water produced near them the verdure and flowers of spring."

Major Scott Waring says, that naphtha is used by the Persians, as we are told it was in hell, for lamps.

. . . . . many a row
Of starry lamps and blazing cressets, fed
With naphtha and asphaltus, yielding light
As from a sky.

[3] "At the great festival of fire, called the Sheb Sezè, they used to set fire to large bunches of dry combustibles, fastened round wild beasts and birds, which being then let loose, the air and earth appeared one great illumination; and as these terrified creatures naturally fled to the woods for shelter, it is easy to conceive the conflagrations they produced."—*Richardson*'s Dissertation.

[4] "The righteous shall be given to drink of pure wine, sealed; the seal whereof shall be musk."—*Koran*, chap. lxxxiii.

Plucking the fiery dart by which he bled,
In ghastly transport wav'd it o'er his head!

'Twas more than midnight now—a fearful pause
Had follow'd the long shouts, the wild applause,
That lately from those Royal Gardens burst,
Where the Veil'd demon held his feast accurst,
When Zelica—alas, poor ruin'd heart,
In ev'ry horror doom'd to bear its part!—
Was bidden to the banquet by a slave,
Who, while his quiv'ring lip the summons gave,
Grew black, as though the shadows of the grave
Compass'd him round, and, ere he could repeat
His message through, fell lifeless at her feet!
Shudd'ring she went—a soul-felt pang of fear,
A presage that her own dark doom was near,
Rous'd ev'ry feeling, and brought Reason back
Once more, to writhe her last upon the rack.
All round seem'd tranquil—ev'n the foe had ceas'd,
As if aware of that demoniac feast,
His fiery bolts; and though the heav'ns look'd red,
'Twas but some distant conflagration's spread.
But hark—she stops—she listens—dreadful tone!
'Tis her Tormentor's laugh—and now, a groan,
A long death-groan comes with it:—can this be
The place of mirth, the bower of revelry?
She enters—Holy Alla, what a sight
Was there before her! By the glimm'ring light
Of the pale dawn, mix'd with the flare of brands
That round lay burning, dropp'd from lifeless hands,
She saw the board, in splendid mockery spread,
Rich censers breathing—garlands overhead—
The urns, the cups, from which they late had quaff'd
All gold and gems, but—what had been the draught?
Oh! who need ask, that saw those livid guests,
With their swoll'n heads sunk black'ning on their breasts,
Or looking pale to Heav'n with glassy glare,
As if they sought but saw no mercy there;
As if they felt, though poison rack'd them through,
Remorse the deadlier torment of the two!
While some, the bravest, hardiest in the train
Of their false Chief, who on the battle-plain
Would have met death with transport by his side,
Here mute and helpless grasp'd;—but, as they died,
Look'd horrible vengeance with their eyes' last strain,
And clench'd the slack'ning hand at him in vain.

Dreadful it was to see the ghastly stare,
The stony look of horror and despair,
Which some of these expiring victims cast
Upon their souls' tormentor to the last;—
Upon that mocking Fiend, whose veil, now rais'd,
Show'd them, as in death's agony they gaz'd,
Not the long promis'd light, the brow, whose beaming
Was to come forth, all conqu'ring, all redeeming,
But features horribler than Hell e'er trac'd
On its own brood;—no Demon of the Waste,[1]
No church-yard Ghole, caught ling'ring in the light
Of the blest sun, e'er blasted human sight
With lineaments so foul, so fierce as those
The' Impostor now, in grinning mock'ry, shows:—
"There, ye wise Saints, behold your Light, your Star—
"Ye *would* be dupes and victims, and ye *are*.
"Is it enough? or must I, while a thrill
"Lives in your sapient bosoms, cheat you still?
"Swear that the burning death ye feel within
"Is but the trance with which Heav'n's joys begin;
"That this foul visage, foul as e'er disgrac'd
"Ev'n monstrous man, is—after God's own taste;
"And that—but see!—ere I have half-way said
"My greetings through, the' uncourteous souls are fled.
"Farewell, sweet spirits! not in vain ye die,
"If Eblis loves you half so well as I.—
"Ha, my young bride!—'tis well—take thou thy seat;
"Nay come—no shudd'ring—didst thou never meet
"The Dead before?—they grac'd our wedding, sweet;
"And these, my guests to-night, have brimm'd so true
"Their parting cups, that *thou* shalt pledge one too.
"But—how is this?—all empty? all drunk up?
"Hot lips have been before thee in the cup,
"Young bride—yet stay—one precious drop remains,
"Enough to warm a gentle Priestess' veins;—
"Here, drink—and should thy lover's conqu'ring arms
"Speed hither, ere thy lip lose all its charms,
"Give him but half this venom in thy kiss,
"And I'll forgive my haughty rival's bliss!

"For *me*—I too must die—but not like these
"Vile, rankling things, to fester in the breeze;
"To have this brow in ruffian triumph shown,
"With all death's grimness added to its own,

[1] "The Afghauns believe each of the numerous solitudes and deserts of their country to be inhabited by a lonely demon, whom they call the Ghoolee Beeabau, or Spirit of the Waste. They often illustrate the wildness of any sequestered tribe, by saying, they are wild as the Demon of the Waste."—*Elphinstone's Caubul.*

" And rot to dust beneath the taunting eyes
" Of slaves, exclaiming, ' There his Godship lies !'
" No—cursed race—since first my soul drew breath,
" They've been my dupes, and *shall* be ev'n in death.
" Thou see'st yon cistern in the shade—'tis fill'd
" With burning drugs, for this last hour distill'd :—[1]
" There will I plunge me in that liquid flame—
" Fit bath to lave a dying Prophet's frame !—
" There perish, all—ere pulse of thine shall fail—
" Nor leave one limb to tell mankind the tale.
" So shall my votaries, wheresoe'er they rave,
" Proclaim that Heav'n took back the Saint it gave ;—
" That I've but vanish'd from this earth awhile,
" To come again, with bright, unshrouded smile !
" So shall they build me altars in their zeal,
" Where knaves shall minister, and fools shall kneel ;
" Where Faith may mutter o'er her mystic spell,
" Written in blood—and Bigotry may swell
" The sail he spreads for Heav'n with blasts from hell !
" So shall my banner, through long ages, be
" The rallying sign of fraud and anarchy ;—
" Kings yet unborn shall rue MOKANNA'S name,
" And, though I die, my spirit, still the same,
" Shall walk abroad in all the stormy strife,
" And guilt, and blood, that were its bliss in life.
" But, hark ! their batt'ring engine shakes the wall—
" Why, *let* it shake—thus I can brave them all.
" No trace of me shall greet them, when they come,
" And I can trust thy faith, for—thou'lt be dumb.
" Now mark how readily a wretch like me,
" In one bold plunge commences Deity !"

He sprung and sunk, as the last words were said—
Quick clos'd the burning waters o'er his head,
And ZELICA was left—within the ring
Of those wide walls the only living thing ;
The only wretched one, still curs'd with breath,
In all that frightful wilderness of death !
More like some bloodless ghost—such as, they tell,
In the Lone Cities of the Silent[2] dwell,
And there, unseen of all but ALLA, sit
Each by its own pale carcass, watching it.

But morn is up, and a fresh warfare stirs
Throughout the camp of the beleaguerers.
Their globes of fire (the dread artill'ry lent
By GREECE to conqu'ring MAHADI) are spent ;
And now the scorpion's shaft, the quarry sent
From high balistas, and the shielded throng
Of soldiers swinging the huge ram along,
All speak the' impatient Islamite's intent
To try, at length, if tower and battlement
And bastion'd wall be not less hard to win,
Less tough to break down than the hearts within.
First in impatience and in toil is he,
The burning AZIM—oh! could he but see
The' Impostor once alive within his grasp,
Not the gaunt lion's hug, nor boa's clasp,
Could match that gripe of vengeance, or keep pace
With the fell heartiness of Hate's embrace !

Loud rings the pond'rous ram against the walls ;
Now shake the ramparts, now a buttress falls,
But still no breach—" Once more, one mighty swing
" Of all your beams, together thundering!"
There—the wall shakes—the shouting troops exult,
" Quick, quick discharge your weightiest catapult
" Right on that spot, and NEKSHEB is our own !"
'Tis done—the battlements come crashing down,
And the huge wall, by that stroke riv'n in two,
Yawning, like some old crater, rent anew,
Shows the dim, desolate city smoking through.
But strange ! no signs of life—nought living seen
Above, below—what can this stillness mean ?
A minute's pause suspends all hearts and eyes—
" In through the breach," impetuous AZIM cries ;
But the cool CALIPH, fearful of some wile
In this blank stillness, checks the troops awhile,—
Just then, a figure, with slow step, advanc'd
Forth from the ruin'd walls, and, as there glanc'd
A sunbeam over it, all eyes could see
The well-known Silver Veil !—" 'Tis He, 'tis He,
" MOKANNA, and alone ! " they shout around ;
Young AZIM from his steed springs to the ground—
" Mine, Holy Caliph ! mine," he cries, " the task
" To crush yon daring wretch—'tis all I ask."
Eager he darts to meet the demon foe,
Who still across wide heaps of ruin slow
And falteringly comes, till they are near ;
Then, with a bound, rushes on AZIM'S spear,
And, casting off the Veil in falling, shows—
Oh !—'tis his ZELICA'S life-blood that flows !

[1] " Il donna du poison dans le vin à tous ses gens, et se jeta lui-même ensuite dans une cuve pleine de drogues brûlantes et consumantes, afin qu'il ne restât rien de tous les membres de son corps, et que ceux qui restoient de sa secte puissent croire qu'il étoit monté au ciel, ce qui ne manqua pas d'arriver." — *D'Herbelot.*

[2] " They have all a great reverence for burial-grounds, which they sometimes call by the poetical name of Cities of the Silent, and which they people with the ghosts of the departed, who sit each at the head of his own grave, invisible to mortal eyes." — *Elphinstone.*

" I meant not, AZIM," soothingly she said,
As on his trembling arm she lean'd her head,
And, looking in his face, saw anguish there
Beyond all wounds the quiv'ring flesh can bear—
" I meant not *thou* shouldst have the pain of this :—
" Though death, with thee thus tasted, is a bliss
" Thou wouldst not rob me of, didst thou but know,
" How oft I've pray'd to God I might die so!
" But the Fiend's venom was too scant and slow ;—
" To linger on were madd'ning—and I thought
" If once that Veil—nay, look not on it—caught
" The eyes of your fierce soldiery, I should be
" Struck by a thousand death-darts instantly.
" But this is sweeter—oh! believe me, yes—
" I would not change this sad, but dear caress,
" This death within thy arms I would not give
" For the most smiling life the happiest live!
" All, that stood dark and drear before the eye
" Of my stray'd soul, is passing swiftly by ;
" A light comes o'er me from those looks of love,
" Like the first dawn of mercy from above ;
" And if thy lips but tell me I'm forgiv'n,
" Angels will echo the blest words in Heav'n!
" But live, my AZIM ;—oh! to call thee mine
" Thus once again! *my* AZIM—dream divine!
" Live, if thou ever lov'dst me, if to meet
" Thy ZELICA hereafter would be sweet,
" Oh, live to pray for her—to bend the knee
" Morning and night before that Deity,
" To whom pure lips and hearts without a stain,
" As thine are, AZIM, never breath'd in vain,—
" And pray that He may pardon her,—may take
" Compassion on her soul for thy dear sake,
" And, nought rememb'ring but her love to thee,
" Make her all thine, all His, eternally!
" Go to those happy fields where first we twin'd
" Our youthful hearts together—every wind
" That meets thee there, fresh from the well-known flow'rs,
" Will bring the sweetness of those innocent hours
" Back to thy soul, and thou may'st feel again
" For thy poor ZELICA as thou didst then.
" So shall thy orisons, like dew that flies
" To Heav'n upon the morning's sunshine, rise
" With all love's earliest ardour to the skies!
" And should they—but, alas, my senses fail—
" Oh for one minute!—should thy prayers prevail—
" If pardon'd souls may, from that World of Bliss,
" Reveal their joy to those they love in this—
" I'll come to thee—in some sweet dream—and tell—
" Oh Heav'n—I die—dear love! farewell, farewell."

Time fleeted—years on years had pass'd away,
And few of those who, on that mournful day,
Had stood, with pity in their eyes, to see
The maiden's death, and the youth's agony,
Were living still—when, by a rustic grave,
Beside the swift Amoo's transparent wave,
An aged man, who had grown aged there
By that lone grave, morning and night in prayer,
For the last time knelt down—and, though the shade
Of death hung dark'ning over him, there play'd
A gleam of rapture on his eye and cheek,
That brighten'd even Death—like the last streak
Of intense glory on the' horizon's brim,
When night o'er all the rest hangs chill and dim.
His soul had seen a Vision, while he slept ;
She, for whose spirit he had pray'd and wept
So many years, had come to him, all drest
In angel smiles, and told him she was blest!
For this the old man breath'd his thanks, and died.—
And there, upon the banks of that lov'd tide,
He and his ZELICA sleep side by side.

THE story of the Veiled Prophet of Khorassan being ended, they were now doomed to hear FADLADEEN's criticisms upon it. A series of disappointments and accidents had occurred to this learned Chamberlain during the journey. In the first place, those couriers stationed, as in the reign of Shah Jehan, between Delhi and the Western coast of India, to secure a constant supply of mangoes for the Royal Table, had, by some cruel irregularity, failed in their duty ; and to eat any mangoes but those of Mazagong was, of course, impossible.[1] In the next place, the elephant, laden with his fine antique porcelain[2], had, in an unusual fit of liveliness, shat-

[1] "The celebrity of Mazagong is owing to its mangoes, which are certainly the best fruit I ever tasted. The parent-tree, from which all those of this species have been grafted, is honoured during the fruit-season by a guard of sepoys ; and, in the reign of Shah Jehan, couriers were stationed between Delhi and the Mahratta coast, to secure an abundant and fresh supply of mangoes for the royal table." — *Mrs. Graham's* Journal of a Residence in India.

[2] This old porcelain is found in digging, and "if it is esteemed, it is not because it has acquired any new degree of beauty in the earth, but because it has retained its ancient beauty ; and this alone is of great importance in China, where they give large sums for the *smallest* vessels which were used under the Emperors Yan and Chun, who reigned many ages before the dynasty of Tang, at which time porcelain began to be used by the Emperors" (about the year 442). — *Dunn's*

tered the whole set to pieces:—an irreparable loss, as many of the vessels were so exquisitely old, as to have been used under the Emperors Yan and Chun, who reigned many ages before the dynasty of Tang. His Koran, too, supposed to be the identical copy between the leaves of which Mahomet's favourite pigeon used to nestle, had been mislaid by his Koran-bearer three whole days; not without much spiritual alarm to FADLADEEN, who, though professing to hold with other loyal and orthodox Mussulmans, that salvation could only be found in the Koran, was strongly suspected of believing in his heart, that it could only be found in his own particular copy of it. When to all these grievances is added the obstinacy of the cooks, in putting the pepper of Canara into his dishes instead of the cinnamon of Serendib, we may easily suppose that he came to the task of criticism with, at least, a sufficient degree of irritability for the purpose.

"In order," said he, importantly swinging about his chaplet of pearls, "to convey with clearness my opinion of the story this young man has related, it is necessary to take a review of all the stories that have ever ——" —"My good FADLADEEN!" exclaimed the Princess, interrupting him, "we really do not deserve that you should give yourself so much trouble. Your opinion of the poem we have just heard, will, I have no doubt, be abundantly edifying, without any further waste of your valuable erudition."—"If that be all," replied the critic,—evidently mortified at not being allowed to show how much he knew about every thing, but the subject immediately before him—"if that be all that is required, the matter is easily despatched." He then proceeded to analyse the poem, in that strain (so well known to the unfortunate bards of Delhi), whose censures were an infliction from which few recovered, and whose very praises were like the honey extracted from the bitter flowers of the aloe. The chief personages of the story were, if he rightly understood them, an ill-favoured gentleman, with a veil over his face;—a young lady, whose reason went and came, according as it suited the poet's convenience to be sensible or otherwise;—and a youth in one of those hideous Bucharian bonnets, who took the aforesaid gentleman in a veil for a Divinity. "From such materials," said he, "what can be expected?—after rivalling each other in long speeches and absurdities, through some thousands of lines as indigestible as the filberts of Berdaa, our friend in the veil jumps into a tub of aqua-fortis; the young lady dies in a set speech, whose only recommendation is that it is her last; and the lover lives on to a good old age, for the laudable purpose of seeing her ghost, which he at last happily accomplishes, and expires. This, you will allow, is a fair summary of the story; and if Nasser, the Arabian merchant, told no better, our Holy Prophet (to whom be all honour and glory!) had no need to be jealous of his abilities for story-telling."[1]

With respect to the style, it was worthy of the matter;—it had not even those politic contrivances of structure, which make up for the commonness of the thoughts by the peculiarity of the manner, nor that stately poetical phraseology by which sentiments mean in themselves, like the blacksmith's[2] apron converted into a banner, are so easily gilt and embroidered into consequence. Then, as to the versification, it was, to say no worse of it, execrable: it had neither the copious flow of Ferdosi, the sweetness of Hafez, nor the sententious march of Sadi; but appeared to him, in the uneasy heaviness of its movements, to have been modelled upon the gait of a very tired dromedary. The licences, too, in which it indulged, were unpardonable;—for instance this line, and the poem abounded with such;—

Like the faint, exquisite music of a dream.

"What critic that can count," said FADLADEEN, "and has his full complement of fingers to count withal, would tolerate for an instant such syllabic superfluities?"—He here looked round, and discovered that most of his audience were asleep; while the glimmering lamps seemed inclined to follow their example. It became necessary, therefore, however painful to himself, to put an end to his valuable animadversions for the present, and he accordingly concluded, with an air of dignified candour, thus:—"Notwithstanding the observations which I have thought it my duty to make, it is by no means my wish to discourage the young man:—so far from it, indeed, that if he will but totally alter his style of writing and thinking, I

Collection of Curious Observations, &c.;—a bad translation of some parts of the Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses of the Missionary Jesuits.

[1] "La lecture de ces Fables plaisoit si fort aux Arabes, que, quand Mahomet les entretenoit de l'Histoire de l'Ancien Testament, ils les méprisoient, lui disant que celles que Nasser leur racontoient étoient beaucoup plus belles. Cette préférence attira à Nasser la malédiction de Mahomet et de tous ses disciples."—*D'Herbelot.*

[2] The blacksmith Gao, who successfully resisted the tyrant Zohak, and whose apron became the Royal Standard of Persia.

have very little doubt that I shall be vastly pleased with him."

Some days elapsed, after this harangue of the Great Chamberlain, before LALLA ROOKH could venture to ask for another story. The youth was still a welcome guest in the pavilion — to *one* heart, perhaps, too dangerously welcome; — but all mention of poetry was, as if by common consent, avoided. Though none of the party had much respect for FADLADEEN, yet his censures, thus magisterially delivered, evidently made an impression on them all. The Poet, himself, to whom criticism was quite a new operation, (being wholly unknown in that Paradise of the Indies, Cashmere,) felt the shock as it is generally felt at first, till use has made it more tolerable to the patient; — the Ladies began to suspect that they ought not to be pleased, and seemed to conclude that there must have been much good sense in what FADLADEEN said, from its having set them all so soundly to sleep; — while the self-complacent Chamberlain was left to triumph in the idea of having, for the hundred and fiftieth time in his life, extinguished a Poet. LALLA ROOKH alone — and Love knew why — persisted in being delighted with all she had heard, and in resolving to hear more as speedily as possible. Her manner, however, of first returning to the subject was unlucky. It was while they rested during the heat of noon near a fountain, on which some hand had rudely traced those well-known words from the Garden of Sadi, — "Many, like me, have viewed this fountain, but they are gone, and their eyes are closed for ever!" — that she took occasion, from the melancholy beauty of this passage, to dwell upon the charms of poetry in general. "It is true," she said, "few poets can imitate that sublime bird, which flies always in the air, and never touches the earth[1]: — it is only once in many ages a Genius appears, whose words, like those on the Written Mountain, last for ever[2]: — but still there are some, as delightful, perhaps, though not so wonderful, who, if not stars over our head, are at least flowers along our path, and whose sweetness of the moment we ought gratefully to inhale, without calling upon them for a brightness and a durability beyond their nature. In short," continued she, blushing, as if conscious of being caught in an oration, "it is quite cruel that a poet cannot wander through his regions of enchantment, without having a critic for ever, like the old Man of the Sea, upon his back!"[3] — FADLADEEN, it was plain, took this last luckless allusion to himself, and would treasure it up in his mind as a whetstone for his next criticism. A sudden silence ensued; and the Princess, glancing a look at FERAMORZ, saw plainly she must wait for a more courageous moment.

But the glories of Nature, and her wild, fragrant airs, playing freshly over the current of youthful spirits, will soon heal even deeper wounds than the dull Fadladeens of this world can inflict. In an evening or two after, they came to the small Valley of Gardens, which had been planted by order of the Emperor, for his favourite sister Rochinara, during their progress to Cashmere, some years before; and never was there a more sparkling assemblage of sweets, since the Gulzar-e-Irem, or Rose-bower of Irem. Every precious flower was there to be found, that poetry, or love, or religion, has ever consecrated; from the dark hyacinth, to which Hafez compares his mistress's hair[4], to the *Cámalatá*, by whose rosy blossoms the heaven of Indra is scented.[5] As they sat in the cool fragrance of this delicious spot, and LALLA ROOKH remarked that she could fancy it the abode of that Flower-loving Nymph whom

[1] "The Huma, a bird peculiar to the East. It is supposed to fly constantly in the air, and never touch the ground; it is looked upon as a bird of happy omen; and that every head it overshades will in time wear a crown." — *Richardson.*

In the terms of alliance made by Fuzzel Oola Khan with Hyder in 1760, one of the stipulations was, "that he should have the distinction of two honorary attendants standing behind him, holding fans composed of the feathers of the humma, according to the practice of his family." — *Wilks*'s South of India. He adds in a note; — "The Humma is a fabulous bird. The head over which its shadow once passes will assuredly be circled with a crown. The splendid little bird suspended over the throne of Tippoo Sultaun, found at Seringapatam in 1799, was intended to represent this poetical fancy."

[2] "To the pilgrims to Mount Sinai we must attribute the inscriptions, figures, &c. on those rocks, which have from thence acquired the name of the Written Mountain." — *Volney.* M. Gebelin and others have been at much pains to attach some mysterious and important meaning to these inscriptions; but Niebuhr, as well as Volney, thinks that they must have been executed at idle hours by the travellers to Mount Sinai, "who were satisfied with cutting the unpolished rock with any pointed instrument; adding to their names and the date of their journeys some rude figures, which bespeak the hand of a people but little skilled in the arts." — *Niebuhr.*

[3] The Story of Sinbad.

[4] See *Nott*'s Hafez, Ode v.

[5] "The Cámalatá (called by Linnæus, Ipomæa) is the most beautiful of its order, both in the colour and form of its leaves and flowers; its elegant blossoms are 'celestial rosy red, Love's proper hue,' and have justly procured it the name of Cámalatá, or Love's Creeper." — *Sir W. Jones.*

"Cámalatá may also mean a mythological plant, by which all desires are granted to such as inhabit the heaven of Indra; and if ever flower was worthy of paradise, it is our charming Ipomæa." — *Ib.*

they worship in the temples of Kathay[1], or of one of those Peris, those beautiful creatures of the air, who live upon perfumes, and to whom a place like this might make some amends for the Paradise they have lost,—the young Poet, in whose eyes she appeared, while she spoke, to be one of the bright spiritual creatures she was describing, said hesitatingly that he remembered a Story of a Peri, which, if the Princess had no objection, he would venture to relate. "It is," said he, with an appealing look to FADLADEEN, "in a lighter and humbler strain than the other:" then, striking a few careless but melancholy chords on his kitar, he thus began:—

PARADISE AND THE PERI.

ONE morn a Peri at the gate
Of Eden stood, disconsolate;
And as she listen'd to the Springs
Of Life within, like music flowing,
And caught the light upon her wings
Through the half-open portal glowing,
She wept to think her recreant race
Should e'er have lost that glorious place!

"How happy," exclaim'd this child of air,
"Are the holy Spirits who wander there,
"Mid flowers that never shall fade or fall;
"Though mine are the gardens of earth and sea,
"And the stars themselves have flowers for me,
"One blossom of Heaven out-blooms them all!

"Though sunny the Lake of cool CASHMERE,
"With its plane-tree Isle reflected clear,[2]
"And sweetly the founts of that Valley fall;
"Though bright are the waters of SING-SU-HAY,
"And the golden floods that thitherward stray,[3]
"Yet—oh, 'tis only the Blest can say
"How the waters of Heaven outshine them all!

"Go, wing thy flight from star to star,
"From world to luminous world, as far
"As the universe spreads its flaming wall:
"Take all the pleasures of all the spheres,
"And multiply each through endless years,
"One minute of Heaven is worth them all!"

The glorious Angel, who was keeping
The gates of Light, beheld her weeping;
And, as he nearer drew and listen'd
To her sad song, a tear-drop glisten'd
Within his eyelids, like the spray
From Eden's fountain, when it lies
On the blue flow'r, which—Bramins say—
Blooms nowhere but in Paradise.[4]

"Nymph of a fair but erring line!"
Gently he said—"One hope is thine.
"'Tis written in the Book of Fate,
"*The Peri yet may be forgiv'n*
"*Who brings to this Eternal gate*
"*The Gift that is most dear to Heav'n!*
"Go, seek it, and redeem thy sin—
"'Tis sweet to let the pardon'd in."

Rapidly as comets run
To the' embraces of the Sun;—
Fleeter than the starry brands
Flung at night from angel hands[5]
At those dark and daring sprites
Who would climb the' empyreal heights,
Down the blue vault the PERI flies,
And, lighted earthward by a glance
That just then broke from morning's eyes,
Hung hov'ring o'er our world's expanse.

But whither shall the Spirit go
To find this gift for Heav'n?—"I know
"The wealth," she cries, "of every urn,
"In which unnumber'd rubies burn,
"Beneath the pillars of CHILMINAR;[6]
"I know where the Isles of Perfume are,[7]

[1] "According to Father Premare, in his tract on Chinese Mythology, the mother of Fo-hi was the daughter of heaven, surnamed Flower-loving; and as the nymph was walking alone on the bank of a river, she found herself encircled by a rainbow, after which she became pregnant, and, at the end of twelve years, was delivered of a son radiant as herself."—*Asiat. Res.*

[2] "Numerous small islands emerge from the Lake of Cashmere. One is called Char Chenaur, from the plane trees upon it."—*Foster.*

[3] "The Altan Kol or Golden River of Tibet, which runs into the Lakes of Sing-su-hay, has abundance of gold in its sands, which employs the inhabitants all the summer in gathering it."—*Description of Tibet in Pinkerton.*

[4] "The Brahmins of this province insist that the blue campac flowers only in Paradise."—*Sir W. Jones.* It appears, however, from a curious letter of the Sultan of Menangcabow, given by Marsden, that one place on earth may lay claim to the possession of it. "This is the Sultan, who keeps the flower champaka that is blue, and to be found in no other country but his, being yellow elsewhere."—*Marsden's* Sumatra.

[5] "The Mahometans suppose that falling stars are the firebrands wherewith the good angels drive away the bad, when they approach too near the empyrean or verge of the heavens."—*Fryer.*

[6] The Forty Pillars; so the Persians call the ruins of Persepolis. It is imagined by them that this palace and the edifices at Balbec were built by Genii, for the purpose of hiding in their subterraneous caverns immense treasures, which still remain there.—*D'Herbelot, Volney.*

[7] *Diodorus* mentions the Isle of Panchaia, to the south of Arabia Felix, where there was a temple of Jupiter. This island, or rather cluster of isles, has disappeared, "sunk (says

" Many a fathom down in the sea,
" To the south of sun-bright ARABY ;[1]
" I know, too, where the Genii hid
" The jewell'd cup of their King JAMSHID,[2]
" With Life's elixir sparkling high —
" But gifts like these are not for the sky.
" Where was there ever a gem that shone
" Like the steps of ALLA'S wonderful Throne ?
" And the Drops of Life—oh ! what would they be
" In the boundless Deep of Eternity ?"

While thus she mus'd, her pinions fann'd
The air of that sweet Indian land,
Whose air is balm ; whose ocean spreads
O'er coral rocks, and amber beds ;[3]
Whose mountains, pregnant by the beam
Of the warm sun, with diamonds teem ;
Whose rivulets are like rich brides,
Lovely, with gold beneath their tides ;
Whose sandal groves and bow'rs of spice
Might be a Peri's Paradise !
But crimson now her rivers ran
With human blood — the smell of death
Came reeking from those spicy bow'rs,
And man, the sacrifice of man,
Mingled his taint with ev'ry breath
Upwafted from the' innocent flow'rs.
Land of the Sun ! what foot invades
Thy Pagods and thy pillar'd shades[4] —
Thy cavern shrines, and Idol stones,
Thy Monarchs and their thousand Thrones ?[5]
'Tis He of GAZNA[6] — fierce in wrath
He comes, and INDIA'S diadems
Lie scatter'd in his ruinous path. —
His bloodhounds he adorns with gems,
Torn from the violated necks
Of many a young and lov'd Sultana ;[7]
Maidens, within their pure Zenana,
Priests in the very fane he slaughters,
And choaks up with the glitt'ring wrecks
Of golden shrines the sacred waters !

Downward the PERI turns her gaze,
And, through the war-field's bloody haze
Beholds a youthful warrior stand,
Alone beside his native river, —
The red blade broken in his hand,
And the last arrow in his quiver.
" Live," said the Conqu'ror, " live to share
" The trophies and the crowns I bear !"
Silent that youthful warrior stood —
Silent he pointed to the flood
All crimson with his country's blood,
Then sent his last remaining dart,
For answer, to the' Invader's heart.

False flew the shaft, though pointed well ;
The Tyrant liv'd, the Hero fell ! —
Yet mark'd the PERI where he lay,
And, when the rush of war was past,
Swiftly descending on a ray
Of morning light, she caught the last —
Last glorious drop his heart had shed,
Before its free-born spirit fled !

" Be this," she cried, as she wing'd her flight,
" My welcome gift at the Gates of Light.
" Though foul are the drops that oft distil
" On the field of warfare, blood like this,
" For Liberty shed, so holy is,[8]
" It would not stain the purest rill,
" That sparkles among the Bowers of Bliss !

Grandpré) in the abyss made by the fire beneath their foundations." — *Voyage to the Indian Ocean.*

[1] The Isles of Panchaia.

[2] " The cup of Jamshid, discovered, they say, when digging for the foundations of Persepolis." — *Richardson.*

[3] " It is not like the Sea of India, whose bottom is rich with pearls and ambergris, whose mountains of the coast are stored with gold and precious stones, whose gulfs breed creatures that yield ivory, and among the plants of whose shores are ebony, red wood, and the wood of Hairzan, aloes, camphor, cloves, sandal-wood, and all other spices and aromatics ; where parrots and peacocks are birds of the forest, and musk and civet are collected upon the lands." — *Travels of two Mohammedans.*

[4] . . . . . in the ground
The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow
About the mother-tree, *a pillar'd shade*,
High over-arch'd, and echoing walks between. MILTON.

For a particular description and plate of the Banyan-tree, see *Cordiner's* Ceylon.

[5] " With this immense treasure Mamood returned to Ghizni, and in the year 400 prepared a magnificent festival, where he displayed to the people his wealth in golden thrones and in other ornaments, in a great plain without the city of Ghizni." — *Ferishta.*

[6] " Mahmood of Gazna, or Ghizni, who conquered India in the beginning of the 11th century." — See his History in *Dow* and Sir *J. Malcolm.*

[7] " It is reported that the hunting equipage of the Sultan Mahmood was so magnificent, that he kept 400 greyhounds and bloodhounds, each of which wore a collar set with jewels, and a covering edged with gold and pearls." — *Universal History*, vol. iii.

[8] Objections may be made to my use of the word Liberty in this, and more especially in the story that follows it, as totally inapplicable to any state of things that has ever existed in the East ; but though I cannot, of course, mean to employ it in that enlarged and noble sense which is so well understood at the present day, and, I grieve to say, so little acted upon, yet it is no disparagement to the word to apply it to that national independence, that freedom from the interference and dictation of foreigners, without which, indeed, no liberty of any kind can exist ; and for which both Hindoos and Persians fought against their Mussulman invaders with, in many cases, a bravery that deserved much better success.

" Oh, if there be, on this earthly sphere,
" A boon, an offering Heav'n holds dear,
" 'Tis the last libation Liberty draws
" From the heart that bleeds and breaks in her cause!"

" Sweet," said the Angel, as she gave
The gift into his radiant hand,
" Sweet is our welcome of the Brave
" Who die thus for their native Land.—
" But see—alas!—the crystal bar
" Of Eden moves not—holier far
" Than ev'n this drop the boon must be,
" That opes the Gates of Heav'n for thee!"

Her first fond hope of Eden blighted,
Now among Afric's lunar Mountains,[1]
Far to the South, the Peri lighted;
And sleek'd her plumage at the fountains
Of that Egyptian tide—whose birth
Is hidden from the sons of earth
Deep in those solitary woods,
Where oft the Genii of the Floods
Dance round the cradle of their Nile,
And hail the new-born Giant's smile.[2]
Thence over Egypt's palmy groves,
Her grots, and sepulchres of Kings,[3]
The exil'd Spirit sighing roves;
And now hangs list'ning to the doves
In warm Rosetta's vale[4]—now loves
To watch the moonlight on the wings
Of the white pelicans that break
The azure calm of Mœris' Lake.[5]
'Twas a fair scene—a Land more bright
Never did mortal eye behold!
Who could have thought, that saw this night
Those valleys and their fruits of gold
Basking in Heav'n's serenest light;—
Those groups of lovely date-trees bending
Languidly their leaf-crown'd heads,
Like youthful maids, when sleep descending
Warns them to their silken beds;—[6]
Those virgin lilies, all the night
Bathing their beauties in the lake,
That they may rise more fresh and bright,
When their beloved Sun's awake;—
Those ruin'd shrines and tow'rs that seem
The relics of a splendid dream;
Amid whose fairy loneliness
Nought but the lapwing's cry is heard,
Nought seen but (when the shadows flitting
Fast from the moon, unsheath its gleam,)
Some purple-wing'd Sultana[7] sitting
Upon a column, motionless
And glitt'ring like an Idol bird!—
Who could have thought, that there, ev'n there,
Amid those scenes so still and fair,
The Demon of the Plague hath cast
From his hot wing a deadlier blast,
More mortal far than ever came
From the red Desert's sands of flame!
So quick, that ev'ry living thing
Of human shape, touch'd by his wing,
Like plants, where the Simoom hath past,
At once falls black and withering!
The sun went down on many a brow,
Which, full of bloom and freshness then,
Is rankling in the pest-house now,
And ne'er will feel that sun again.
And, oh! to see the' unburied heaps
On which the lonely moonlight sleeps—
The very vultures turn away,
And sicken at so foul a prey!
Only the fierce hyæna stalks[8]
Throughout the city's desolate walks[9]
At midnight, and his carnage plies:—
Woe to the half-dead wretch, who meets
The glaring of those large blue eyes[10]
Amid the darkness of the streets!

" Poor race of men!" said the pitying Spirit,
" Dearly ye pay for your primal Fall—
" Some flow'rets of Eden ye still inherit,
" But the trail of the Serpent is over them all!"

[1] " The Mountains of the Moon, or the Montes Lunæ of antiquity, at the foot of which the Nile is supposed to arise."—*Bruce.*
" Sometimes called," says *Jackson*, " Jibbel Kumrie, or the white or lunar-coloured mountains; so a white horse is called by the Arabians a moon-coloured horse."

[2] " The Nile, which the Abyssinians know by the names of Abey and Alawy, or the Giant."—*Asiat. Research.* vol. i. p. 387.

[3] See Perry's View of the Levant for an account of the sepulchres in Upper Thebes, and the numberless grots, covered all over with hieroglyphics in the mountains of Upper Egypt.

[4] " The orchards of Rosetta are filled with turtle-doves."—*Sonnini.*

[5] Savary mentions the pelicans upon Lake Mœris.

[6] " The superb date-tree, whose head languidly reclines, like that of a handsome woman overcome with sleep."—*Dafard el Hadad.*

[7] " That beautiful bird, with plumage of the finest shining blue, with purple beak and legs, the natural and living ornament of the temples and palaces of the Greeks and Romans, which, from the stateliness of its port, as well as the brilliancy of its colours, has obtained the title of Sultana."—*Sonnini.*

[8] Jackson, speaking of the plague that occurred in West Barbary, when he was there, says, " The birds of the air fled away from the abodes of men. The hyænas, on the contrary, visited the cemeteries," &c.

[9] " Gondar was full of hyænas from the time it turned dark, till the dawn of day, seeking the different pieces of slaughtered carcasses, which this cruel and unclean people expose in the streets without burial, and who firmly believe that these animals are Falashta from the neighbouring mountains, transformed by magic, and come down to eat human flesh in the dark in safety."—*Bruce.*

[10] Ibid.

She wept — the air grew pure and clear
Around her, as the bright drops ran;
For there's a magic in each tear,
Such kindly Spirits weep for man!

Just then beneath some orange trees,
Whose fruit and blossoms in the breeze
Were wantoning together, free,
Like age at play with infancy —
Beneath that fresh and springing bower,
Close by the Lake, she heard the moan
Of one who, at this silent hour,
Had thither stol'n to die alone.
One who in life where'er he mov'd,
Drew after him the hearts of many;
Yet now, as though he ne'er were lov'd,
Dies here unseen, unwept by any!
None to watch near him — none to slake
The fire that in his bosom lies,
With ev'n a sprinkle from that lake,
Which shines so cool before his eyes.
No voice, well known through many a day,
To speak the last, the parting word,
Which, when all other sounds decay,
Is still like distant music heard; —
That tender farewell on the shore
Of this rude world, when all is o'er,
Which cheers the spirit, ere its bark
Puts off into the unknown Dark.

Deserted youth! one thought alone
Shed joy around his soul in death —
That she, whom he for years had known,
And lov'd, and might have call'd his own,
Was safe from this foul midnight's breath, —
Safe in her father's princely halls,
Where the cool airs from fountain falls,
Freshly perfum'd by many a brand
Of the sweet wood from India's land,
Were pure as she whose brow they faun'd.

But see — who yonder comes by stealth.[1]
This melancholy bow'r to seek,
Like a young envoy, sent by Health,
With rosy gifts upon her cheek?
'Tis she — far off, through moonlight dim,
He knew his own betrothed bride,
She, who would rather die with him,
Than live to gain the world beside! —
Her arms are round her lover now,
His livid cheek to hers she presses,
And dips, to bind his burning brow,
In the cool lake her loosen'd tresses.

Ah! once, how little did he think
An hour would come, when he should shrink
With horror from that dear embrace,
Those gentle arms, that were to him
Holy as is the cradling place
Of Eden's infant cherubim!
And now he yields — now turns away,
Shudd'ring as if the venom lay
All in those proffer'd lips alone —
Those lips that, then so fearless grown,
Never until that instant came
Near his unask'd or without shame.
"Oh! let me only breathe the air,
"The blessed air, that's breath'd by thee,
"And, whether on its wings it bear
"Healing or death, 'tis sweet to me!
"There — drink my tears, while yet they fall —
"Would that my bosom's blood were balm,
"And, well thou know'st, I'd shed it all,
"To give thy brow one minute's calm.
"Nay, turn not from me that dear face —
"Am I not thine — thy own lov'd bride —
"The one, the chosen one, whose place
"In life or death is by thy side?
"Think'st thou that she, whose only light,
"In this dim world, from thee hath shone,
"Could bear the long, the cheerless night,
"That must be hers when thou art gone?
"That I can live, and let thee go,
"Who art my life itself? — No, no —
"When the stem dies, the leaf that grew
"Out of its heart must perish too!
"Then, turn to me, my own love, turn,
"Before, like thee, I fade and burn;
"Cling to these yet cool lips, and share
"The last pure life that lingers there!"
She fails — she sinks — as dies the lamp
In charnel airs, or cavern-damp,
So quickly do his baleful sighs
Quench all the sweet light of her eyes.
One struggle — and his pain is past —
Her lover is no longer living!
One kiss the maiden gives, one last,
Long kiss, which she expires in giving!

"Sleep," said the PERI, as softly she stole
The farewell sigh of that vanishing soul,
As true as e'er warm'd a woman's breast,
"Sleep on, in visions of odour rest,
"In bannier airs thou ever yet stirr'd
"The enchanted pile of that lonely bird,
"Who sings at the last his own death-lay?
"And in music and perfume dies away."

[1] This circumstance has been often introduced into poetry; — by Vincentius Fabricius, by Darwin, and lately, with very powerful effect, by Mr. Wilson.

[2] "In the East, they [illegible] the Phenix [illegible] orthers in his bill, which are [illegible] after living one thousand [illegible] pids himself [illegible]

Thus saying, from her lips she spread
Unearthly breathings through the place,
And shook her sparkling wreath, and shed
Such lustre o'er each paly face,
That like two lovely saints they seem'd,
Upon the eve of doomsday taken
From their dim graves, in odour sleeping;
While that benevolent PERI beam'd
Like their good angel, calmly keeping
Watch o'er them till their souls would waken.

But morn is blushing in the sky;
Again the PERI soars above,
Bearing to Heav'n that precious sigh
Of pure, self-sacrificing love.
High throbb'd her heart, with hope elate,
The' Elysian palm she soon shall win,
For the bright Spirit at the gate
Smil'd as she gave that off'ring in;
And she already hears the trees
Of Eden, with their crystal bells
Ringing in that ambrosial breeze
That from the throne of ALLA swells;
And she can see the starry bowls
That lie around that lucid lake,
Upon whose banks admitted Souls
Their first sweet draught of glory take![1]

But, ah! even PERIS' hopes are vain—
Again the Fates forbade, again
The' immortal barrier clos'd — "Not yet,"
The Angel said, as, with regret,
He shut from her that glimpse of glory —
"True was the maiden, and her story,
"Written in light o'er ALLA's head,
"By seraph eyes shall long be read.
"But, PERI, see — the crystal bar
"Of Eden moves not — holier far
"Than ev'n this sigh the boon must be
"That opes the Gates of Heav'n for thee."

Now, upon SYRIA's land of roses[2]
Softly the light of Eve reposes,
And, like a glory, the broad sun
Hangs over sainted LEBANON;
Whose head in wintry grandeur tow'rs,
And whitens with eternal sleet,
While summer, in a vale of flow'rs,
Is sleeping rosy at his feet.

To one, who look'd from upper air
O'er all the' enchanted regions there,
How beauteous must have been the glow,
The life, the sparkling from below!
Fair gardens, shining streams, with ranks
Of golden melons on their banks,
More golden where the sun-light falls;—
Gay lizards,[3] glitt'ring on the walls
Of ruin'd shrines, busy and bright
As they were all alive with light;
And, yet more splendid, numerous flocks
Of pigeons, settling on the rocks,
With their rich restless wings, that gleam
Variously in the crimson beam
Of the warm West,—as if inlaid
With brilliants from the mine, or made
Of tearless rainbows, such as span
The' unclouded skies of PERISTAN.
And then the mingling sounds that come,
Of shepherd's ancient reed[4], with hum
Of the wild bees of PALESTINE,[5]
Banqueting through the flow'ry vales;
And, JORDAN, those sweet banks of thine,
And woods, so full of nightingales.[6]

But nought can charm the luckless PERI;
Her soul is sad—her wings are weary—
Joyless she sees the Sun look down
On that great Temple, once his own,[7]
Whose lonely columns stand sublime,
Flinging their shadows from on high,
Like dials, which the wizard, Time,
Had rais'd to count his ages by!

Yet haply there may lie conceal'd
Beneath those Chambers of the Sun,
Some amulet of gems, anneal'd
In upper fires, some tablet seal'd
With the great name of SOLOMON,
Which, spell'd by her illumin'd eyes,

pile sings a melodious air of different harmonies through his fifty organ pipes, flaps his wings with a velocity which sets fire to the wood, and consumes himself." — *Richardson.*

[1] "On the shores of a quadrangular lake stand a thousand goblets, made of stars, out of which souls predestined to enjoy felicity drink the crystal wave." — From *Chateaubriand's* Description of the Mahometan Paradise, in his *Beauties of Christianity.*

[2] Richardson thinks that Syria had its name from Suri, a beautiful and delicate species of rose, for which that country has been always famous; — hence, Suristan, the Land of Roses.

[3] "The number of lizards I saw one day in the great court of the Temple of the Sun at Balbec amounted to many thousands: the ground, the walls, and stones of the ruined buildings, were covered with them." — *Bruce.*

[4] "The Syrinx or Pan's pipe is still a pastoral instrument in Syria." — *Russel.*

[5] "Wild bees, frequent in Palestine, in hollow trunks or branches of trees, and the clefts of rocks. Thus it is said (Psalm lxxxi.), 'honey out of the stony rock.'" — *Burder's* Oriental Customs.

[6] "The river Jordan is on both sides beset with little, thick, and pleasant woods, among which thousands of nightingales warble all together." — *Thevenot.*

[7] The Temple of the Sun at Balbec.

May teach her where, beneath the moon,
In earth or ocean, lies the boon,
The charm, that can restore so soon
An erring Spirit to the skies.

Cheer'd by this hope she bends her thither;—
Still laughs the radiant eye of Heaven,
Nor have the golden bowers of Even
In the rich West begun to wither;—
When, o'er the vale of BALBEC winging
Slowly, she sees a child at play,
Among the rosy wild flow'rs singing,
As rosy and as wild as they;
Chasing, with eager hands and eyes,
The beautiful blue damsel-flies,[1]
That flutter'd round the jasmine stems,
Like winged flow'rs or flying gems:—
And, near the boy, who tir'd with play
Now nestling 'mid the roses lay,
She saw a wearied man dismount
From his hot steed, and on the brink
Of a small imaret's rustic fount[2]
Impatient fling him down to drink.
Then swift his haggard brow he turn'd
To the fair child, who fearless sat,
Though never yet hath day-beam burn'd
Upon a brow more fierce than that,—
Sullenly fierce—a mixture dire,
Like thunder clouds, of gloom and fire;
In which the PERI's eye could read
Dark tales of many a ruthless deed;
The ruin'd maid—the shrine profan'd—
Oaths broken—and the threshold stain'd
With blood of guests!—*there* written, all,
Black as the damning drops that fall
From the denouncing Angel's pen,
Ere Mercy weeps them out again.

Yet tranquil now that man of crime
(As if the balmy evening time
Soften'd his spirit) look'd and lay,
Watching the rosy infant's play:—
Though still, whene'er his eye by chance
Fell on the boy's, its lurid glance
Met that unclouded, joyous gaze,
As torches, that have burnt all night
Through some impure and godless rite,
Encounter morning's glorious rays.

But, hark! the vesper calls to pray'r,
As slow the orb of daylight sets,
Is rising sweetly on the air,
From SYRIA's thousand minarets!
The boy has started from the bed
Of flow'rs, where he had laid his head,
And down upon the fragrant sod
Kneels[3] with his forehead to the south,
Lisping the' eternal name of God
From Purity's own cherub mouth,
And looking, while his hands and eyes
Are lifted to the glowing skies,
Like a stray babe of Paradise,
Just lighted on that flow'ry plain,
And seeking for its home again.
Oh! 'twas a sight—that Heav'n—that child—
A scene, which might have well beguil'd
Ev'n haughty EBLIS of a sigh
For glories lost and peace gone by!

And how felt *he*, the wretched Man
Reclining there—while memory ran
O'er many a year of guilt and strife,
Flew o'er the dark flood of his life,
Nor found one sunny resting-place,
Nor brought him back one branch of grace.
"There *was* a time," he said, in mild,
Heart-humbled tones—"thou blessed child!
"When, young and haply pure as thou,
"I look'd and pray'd like thee—but now—"
He hung his head—each nobler aim,
And hope, and feeling, which had slept
From boyhood's hour, that instant came
Fresh o'er him, and he wept—he wept!

Blest tears of soul-felt penitence!
In whose benign, redeeming flow
Is felt the first, the only sense
Of guiltless joy that guilt can know.

[1] "You behold there a considerable number of a remarkable species of beautiful insects, the elegance of whose appearance and their attire procured for them the name of Damsels." — *Sonnini.*

[2] Imaret, "hospice où on loge et nourrit, gratis, les pélerins pendant trois jours." — *Toderini, translated by the Abbé de Cournand.* — See also *Castellan*'s Mœurs des Othomans, tom. v. p. 145.

[3] "Such Turks as at the common hours of prayer are on the road, or so employed as not to find convenience to attend the mosques, are still obliged to execute that duty; nor are they ever known to fail, whatever business they are then about, but pray immediately when the hour alarms them, whatever they are about, in that very place they chance to stand on; insomuch that when a janissary, whom you have to guard you up and down the city, hears the notice which is given him from the steeples, he will turn about, stand still, and beckon with his hand, to tell his charge he must have patience for awhile; when, taking out his handkerchief, he spreads it on the ground, sits cross-legged thereupon, and says his prayers, though in the open market, which, having ended, he leaps briskly up, salutes the person whom he undertook to convey, and renews his journey with the mild expression of *Ghell gohnnum ghell*, or Come, dear, follow me." — *Aaron Hill*'s Travels.

" There's a drop," said the PERI, " that down
from the moon
" Falls through the withering airs of June
" Upon EGYPT's land [1], of so healing a pow'r,
" So balmy a virtue, that ev'n in the hour
" That drop descends, contagion dies,
" And health re-animates earth and skies!—
" Oh, is it not thus, thou man of sin,
" The precious tears of repentance fall?
" Though foul thy fiery plagues within,
" One heavenly drop hath dispell'd them all!"

And now—behold him kneeling there
By the child's side, in humble pray'r,
While the same sunbeam shines upon
The guilty and the guiltless one,
And hymns of joy proclaim through Heav'n
The triumph of a Soul Forgiv'n!

'Twas when the golden orb had set,
While on their knees they linger'd yet,
There fell a light more lovely far
Than ever came from sun or star,
Upon the tear that, warm and meek,
Dew'd that repentant sinner's cheek.
To mortal eye this light might seem
A northern flash or meteor beam—
But well the' enraptur'd PERI knew
'Twas a bright smile the Angel threw
From Heaven's gate, to hail that tear
Her harbinger of glory near!

" Joy, joy for ever! my task is done—
" The gates are pass'd, and Heav'n is won!
" Oh! am I not happy? I am, I am—
" To thee, sweet Eden! how dark and sad
" Are the diamond turrets of SHADUKIAM, [2]
" And the fragrant bowers of AMBERABAD!

" Farewell, ye odours of Earth, that die
" Passing away like a lover's sigh;—
" My feast is now of the Tooba Tree, [3]
" Whose scent is the breath of Eternity!

" Farewell, ye vanishing flowers, that shone
" In my fairy wreath, so bright and brief;—
" Oh! what are the brightest that e'er have
blown,
" To the lote-tree, springing by ALLA's throne, [4]
" Whose flowers have a soul in every leaf.
" Joy, joy for ever!—my task is done—
" The Gates are pass'd, and Heav'n is won!"

" AND this," said the Great Chamberlain, " is poetry! this flimsy manufacture of the brain, which in comparison with the lofty and durable monuments of genius, is as the gold filigree-work of Zamara beside the eternal architecture of Egypt!" After this gorgeous sentence, which, with a few more of the same kind, FADLADEEN kept by him for rare and important occasions, he proceeded to the anatomy of the short poem just recited. The lax and easy kind of metre in which it was written ought to be denounced, he said, as one of the leading causes of the alarming growth of poetry in our times. If some check were not given to this lawless facility, we should soon be overrun by a race of bards as numerous and as shallow as the hundred and twenty thousand Streams of Basra. [5] They who succeeded in this style deserved chastisement for their very success;—as warriors have been punished, even after gaining a victory, because they had taken the liberty of gaining it in an irregular or unestablished manner. What, then, was to be said to those who failed? to those who presumed, as in the present lamentable instance, to imitate the license and ease of the bolder sons of song, without any of that grace or vigour which gave a dignity even to negligence;—who, like them, flung the jereed [6] carelessly, but not, like them, to the mark;—" and who," said he, raising his voice to excite a proper degree of wakefulness in his hearers, " contrive to appear heavy and constrained in the midst of all the latitude they allow themselves, like one of those young pagans that dance before the Princess, who is ingenious enough to move as if her limbs were

[1] The Nucta, or Miraculous Drop, which falls in Egypt precisely on St. John's day, in June, and is supposed to have the effect of stopping the plague.

[2] The Country of Delight—the name of a province in the kingdom of Jinnistan, or Fairy Land, the capital of which is called the City of Jewels. Amberabad is another of the cities of Jinnistan.

[3] The tree Tooba, that stands in Paradise, in the palace of Mahomet. See *Sale's Prelim. Disc.*—Tooba, says *D'Herbelot*, signifies beatitude, or eternal happiness.

[4] Mahomet is described, in the 53d chapter of the Koran, as having seen the angel Gabriel " by the lote-tree, beyond which there is no passing: near it is the Garden of Eternal Abode." This tree, say the commentators, stands in the seventh Heaven, on the right hand of the Throne of God.

[5] " It is said that the rivers or streams of Basra were reckoned in the time of Pelal ben Abi Bordeh, and amounted to the number of one hundred and twenty thousand streams." —*Ebn Haukal.*

[6] The name of the javelin with which the Easterns exercise. See *Castellan, Mœurs des Othomans*, tom. iii. p. 161.

fettered, in a pair of the lightest and loosest drawers of Masulipatam!"

It was but little suitable, he continued, to the grave march of criticism to follow this fantastical Peri, of whom they had just heard, through all her flights and adventures between earth and heaven; but he could not help adverting to the puerile conceitedness of the Three Gifts which she is supposed to carry to the skies,—a drop of blood, forsooth, a sigh, and a tear! How the first of these articles was delivered into the Angel's "radiant hand" he professed himself at a loss to discover; and as to the safe carriage of the sigh and the tear, such Peris and such poets were beings by far too incomprehensible for him even to guess how they managed such matters. "But, in short," said he, "it is a waste of time and patience to dwell longer upon a thing so incurably frivolous,—puny even among its own puny race, and such as only the Banyan Hospital[1] for Sick Insects should undertake."

In vain did LALLA ROOKH try to soften this inexorable critic; in vain did she resort to her most eloquent common-places,—reminding him that poets were a timid and sensitive race, whose sweetness was not to be drawn forth, like that of the fragrant grass near the Ganges, by crushing and trampling upon them[2];—that severity often extinguished every chance of the perfection which it demanded; and that, after all, perfection was like the Mountain of the Talisman,—no one had ever yet reached its summit.[3] Neither these gentle axioms, nor the still gentler looks with which they were inculcated, could lower for one instant the elevation of FADLADEEN's eyebrows, or charm him into any thing like encouragement, or even toleration, of her poet. Toleration, indeed, was not among the weaknesses of FADLADEEN:—he carried the same spirit into matters of poetry and of religion, and, though little versed in the beauties or sublimities of either, was a perfect master of the art of persecution in both. His zeal was the same, too, in either pursuit; whether the game before him was pagans or poetasters,—worshippers of cows, or writers of epics.

They had now arrived at the splendid city of Lahore, whose mausoleums and shrines, magnificent and numberless, where Death appeared to share equal honours with Heaven, would have powerfully affected the heart and imagination of LALLA ROOKH, if feelings more of this earth had not taken entire possession of her already. She was here met by messengers, despatched from Cashmere, who informed her that the King had arrived in the Valley, and was himself superintending the sumptuous preparations that were then making in the Saloons of the Shalimar for her reception. The chill she felt on receiving this intelligence,—which to a bride whose heart was free and light would have brought only images of affection and pleasure,—convinced her that her peace was gone for ever, and that she was in love, irretrievably in love, with young FERAMORZ. The veil had fallen off in which this passion at first disguises itself, and to know that she loved was now as painful as to love *without* knowing it had been delicious. FERAMORZ, too,—what misery would be his, if the sweet hours of intercourse so imprudently allowed them should have stolen into his heart the same fatal fascination as into hers;—if, notwithstanding her rank, and the modest homage he always paid to it, even *he* should have yielded to the influence of those long and happy interviews, where music, poetry, the delightful scenes of nature,—all had tended to bring their hearts close together, and to waken by every means that too ready passion, which often, like the young of the desert-bird, is warmed into life by the eyes alone![4] She saw but one way to preserve herself from being culpable as well as unhappy, and this, however painful, she was resolved to adopt. FERAMORZ must no more be admitted to her presence. To have strayed so far into the dangerous labyrinth was wrong, but to linger in it, while the clue was yet in her hand, would be criminal. Though the heart she had to offer to the King of Bucharia might be cold and broken,

[1] "This account excited a desire of visiting the Banyan Hospital, as I had heard much of their benevolence to all kinds of animals that were either sick, lame, or infirm, through age or accident. On my arrival, there were presented to my view many horses, cows, and oxen, in one apartment; in another, dogs, sheep, goats, and monkeys, with clean straw for them to repose on. Above stairs were depositories for seeds of many sorts, and flat, broad dishes for water, for the use of birds and insects." — *Parson's* Travels.

It is said that all animals know the Banyans, that the most timid approach them, and that birds will fly nearer to them than to other people. — See *Grandpré*.

[2] "A very fragrant grass from the banks of the Ganges, near Heridwar, which in some places covers whole acres, and diffuses, when crushed, a strong odour." — *Sir W. Jones* on the Spikenard of the Ancients.

[3] "Near this is a curious hill, called Koh Talism, the Mountain of the Talisman, because, according to the traditions of the country, no person ever succeeded in gaining its summit." — *Kinneir*.

[4] "The Arabians believe that the ostriches hatch their young by only looking at them." — *P. Vanslebe, Relat. d'Egypte*.

it should at least be pure; and she must only endeavour to forget the short dream of happiness she had enjoyed,—like that Arabian shepherd, who, in wandering into the wilderness, caught a glimpse of the Gardens of Irim, and then lost them again for ever![1]

The arrival of the young Bride at Lahore was celebrated in the most enthusiastic manner. The Rajas and Omras in her train, who had kept at a certain distance during the journey, and never encamped nearer to the Princess than was strictly necessary for her safeguard, here rode in splendid cavalcade through the city, and distributed the most costly presents to the crowd. Engines were erected in all the squares, which cast forth showers of confectionary among the people; while the artisans, in chariots[2] adorned with tinsel and flying streamers, exhibited the badges of their respective trades through the streets. Such brilliant displays of life and pageantry among the palaces, and domes, and gilded minarets of Lahore, made the city altogether like a place of enchantment;—particularly on the day when LALLA ROOKH set out again upon her journey, when she was accompanied to the gate by all the fairest and richest of the nobility, and rode along between ranks of beautiful boys and girls, who kept waving over their heads plates of gold and silver flowers[3], and then threw them around to be gathered by the populace.

For many days after their departure from Lahore, a considerable degree of gloom hung over the whole party. LALLA ROOKH, who had intended to make illness her excuse for not admitting the young minstrel, as usual, to the pavilion, soon found that to feign indisposition was unnecessary;—FADLADEEN felt the loss of the good road they had hitherto travelled, and was very near cursing Jehan-Guire (of blessed memory!) for not having continued his delectable alley of trees[4], at least as far as the mountains of Cashmere;—while the Ladies, who had nothing now to do all day but to be fanned by peacocks' feathers and listen to FADLADEEN, seemed heartily weary of the life they led, and, in spite of all the Great Chamberlain's criticisms, were so tasteless as to wish for the poet again. One evening, as they were proceeding to their place of rest for the night, the Princess, who, for the freer enjoyment of the air, had mounted her favourite Arabian palfrey, in passing by a small grove heard the notes of a lute from within its leaves, and a voice, which she but too well knew, singing the following words:—

TELL me not of joys above,
If that world can give no bliss,
Truer, happier than the Love
Which enslaves our souls in this.

Tell me not of Houris' eyes;—
Far from me their dangerous glow,
If those looks that light the skies
Wound like some that burn below.

Who, that feels what Love is here,
All its falsehood—all its pain—
Would, for ev'n Elysium's sphere,
Risk the fatal dream again?

Who, that midst a desert's heat
Sees the waters fade away,
Would not rather die than meet
Streams again as false as they?

The tone of melancholy defiance in which these words were uttered, went to LALLA ROOKH's heart;—and, as she reluctantly rode on, she could not help feeling it to be a sad but still sweet certainty, that FERAMORZ was to the full as enamoured and miserable as herself.

The place where they encamped that evening was the first delightful spot they had come to since they left Lahore. On one side of them was a grove full of small Hindoo temples, and planted with the most graceful trees of the East; where the tamarind, the cassia, and the silken plantains of Ceylon were mingled in rich contrast with the high fan-like foliage of the Palmyra,—that favourite tree of the luxurious bird that lights up the chambers of its nest with fire-flies.[5] In the middle of the lawn where the pavilion stood there was a tank surrounded by small mangoe-trees, on the clear cold waters of which floated

[1] See *Sale's Koran*, note, vol. ii. p. 484.

[2] Oriental Tales.

[3] Ferishta. "Or rather," says *Scott*, upon the passage of Ferishta, from which this is taken, "small coins, stamped with the figure of a flower. They are still used in India to distribute in charity, and, on occasion, thrown by the purse-bearers of the great among the populace."

[4] The fine road made by the Emperor Jehan-Guire from Agra to Lahore, planted with trees on each side. This road is 250 leagues in length. It has "little pyramids or turrets," says *Bernier*, "erected every half league, to mark the ways, and frequent wells to afford drink to passengers, and to water the young trees."

[5] "The Baya, or Indian Gross-beak.—*Sir W. Jones.*

multitudes of the beautiful red lotus [1]; while at a distance stood the ruins of a strange and awful-looking tower, which seemed old enough to have been the temple of some religion no longer known, and which spoke the voice of desolation in the midst of all that bloom and loveliness. This singular ruin excited the wonder and conjectures of all. LALLA ROOKH guessed in vain, and the all-preteading FADLADEEN, who had never till this journey been beyond the precincts of Delhi, was proceeding most learnedly to show that he knew nothing whatever about the matter, when one of the Ladies suggested that perhaps FERAMORZ could satisfy their curiosity. They were now approaching his native mountains, and this tower might perhaps be a relic of some of those dark superstitions, which had prevailed in that country before the light of Islam dawned upon it. The Chamberlain, who usually preferred his own ignorance to the best knowledge that any one else could give him, was by no means pleased with this officious reference; and the Princess, too, was about to interpose a faint word of objection, but, before either of them could speak, a slave was despatched for FERAMORZ, who, in a very few minutes, made his appearance before them — looking so pale and unhappy in LALLA ROOKH's eyes, that she repented already of her cruelty in having so long excluded him.

That venerable tower, he told them, was the remains of an ancient Fire-Temple, built by those Ghebers or Persians of the old religion, who, many hundred years since, had fled hither from their Arab conquerors [2], preferring liberty and their altars in a foreign land to the alternative of apostasy or persecution in their own. It was impossible, he added, not to feel interested in the many glorious but unsuccessful struggles, which had been made by these original natives of Persia to cast off the yoke of their bigoted conquerors. Like their own Fire in the Burning Field at Bakou [3], when suppressed in one place, they had but broken out with fresh flame in another; and, as a native of Cashmere, of that fair and Holy Valley, which had in the same manner become the prey of strangers [4], and seen her ancient shrines and native princes swept away before the march of her intolerant invaders, he felt a sympathy, he owned, with the sufferings of the persecuted Ghebers, which every monument like this before them but tended more powerfully to awaken.

It was the first time that FERAMORZ had ever ventured upon so much *prose* before FADLADEEN, and it may easily be conceived what effect such prose as this must have produced upon that most orthodox and most pagan-hating personage. He sat for some minutes aghast, ejaculating only at intervals, "Bigoted conquerors! — sympathy with Fire-worshippers!" [5] — while FERAMORZ, happy to take advantage of this almost speechless horror of the Chamberlain, proceeded to say that he knew a melancholy story, connected with the events of one of those struggles of the brave Fire-worshippers against their Arab masters, which, if the evening was not too far advanced, he should have much pleasure in being allowed to relate to the Princess. It was impossible for LALLA ROOKH to refuse; — he had never before looked half so animated; and when he spoke of the Holy Valley his eyes had sparkled, she thought, like the talismanic characters on the scimitar of Solomon. Her consent was therefore most readily granted; and while FADLADEEN sat in unspeakable dismay, expecting treason and abomination in every line, the poet thus began his story of the Fire-worshippers: —

THE FIRE-WORSHIPPERS.

'TIS moonlight over OMAN'S SEA; [6]
Her banks of pearl and palmy isles
Bask in the night-beam beauteously,
And her blue waters sleep in smiles.
'Tis moonlight in HARMOZIA'S [7] walls,
And through her EMIR'S porphyry halls,

[1] "Here is a large pagoda by a tank, on the water of which float multitudes of the beautiful red lotus: the flower is larger than that of the white water-lily, and is the most lovely of the nymphæas I have seen." — *Mrs. Graham*'s Journal of a Residence in India.

[2] "On les voit persécutés par les Khalifes se retirer dans les montagnes du Kerman: plusieurs choisirent pour retraite la Tartarie et la Chine; d'autres s'arrêtèrent sur les bords du Gange, à l'est de Delhi." — *M. Anquetil*, Mémoires de l'Académie, tom. xxxi. p. 346.

[3] The "Ager ardens" described by *Kempfer*, *Amœnitat. Exot.*

[4] "Cashmere (says its historians) had its own princes 4000 years before its conquest by Akbar in 1585. Akbar would have found some difficulty to reduce this paradise of the Indies, situated as it is within such a fortress of mountains, but its monarch, Yusef-Khan, was basely betrayed by his Omrahs." — *Pennant*.

[5] Voltaire tells us that in his Tragedy, "Les Guèbres," he was generally supposed to have alluded to the Jansenists. I should not be surprised if this story of the Fire-worshippers were found capable of a similar doubleness of application.

[6] The Persian Gulf, sometimes so called, which separates the shores of Persia and Arabia.

[7] The present Gombaroon, a town on the Persian side of the Gulf.

Where, some hours since, was heard the swell
Of trumpet and the clash of zel,[1]
Bidding the bright-ey'd sun farewell; —
The peaceful sun, whom better suits
The music of the bulbul's nest,
Or the light touch of lovers' lutes,
To sing him to his golden rest.
All hush'd — there's not a breeze in motion;
The shore is silent as the ocean.
If zephyrs come, so light they come,
Nor leaf is stirr'd nor wave is driven; —
The wind-tower on the EMIR's dome [2]
Can hardly win a breath from heaven.

Ev'n he, that tyrant Arab, sleeps
Calm, while a nation round him weeps;
While curses load the air he breathes,
And falchions from unnumber'd sheaths
Are starting to avenge the shame
His race hath brought on IRAN's [3] name.
Hard, heartless Chief, unmov'd alike
Mid eyes that weep, and swords that strike; —
One of that saintly, murd'rous brood,
To carnage and the Koran giv'n,
Who think through unbelievers' blood
Lies their directest path to heav'n; —
One, who will pause and kneel unshod
In the warm blood his hand hath pour'd,
To mutter o'er some text of God
Engraven on his reeking sword; [4] —
Nay, who can coolly note the line,
The letter of those words divine,
To which his blade, with searching art,
Had sunk into its victim's heart!

Just ALLA! what must be thy look,
When such a wretch before thee stands
Unblushing, with thy Sacred Book, —
Turning the leaves with blood-stain'd hands,
And wresting from its page sublime
His creed of lust, and hate, and crime; —
Ev'n as those bees of TREBIZOND,
Which, from the sunniest flow'rs that glad
With their pure smile the gardens round,
Draw venom forth that drives men mad.[5]

Never did fierce ARABIA send
A satrap forth more direly great;
Never was IRAN doom'd to bend
Beneath a yoke of deadlier weight.
Her throne had fall'n — her pride was crush'd —
Her sons were willing slaves, nor blush'd,
In their own land, — no more their own, —
To crouch beneath a stranger's throne.
Her tow'rs, where MITHRA once had burn'd,
To Moslem shrines — oh shame! — were turn'd,
Where slaves, converted by the sword,
Their mean, apostate worship pour'd,
And curs'd the faith their sires ador'd.
Yet has she hearts, mid all this ill,
O'er all this wreck high buoyant still
With hope and vengeance; — hearts that yet —
Like gems, in darkness, issuing rays
They've treasur'd from the sun that's set, —
Beam all the light of long-lost days!
And swords she hath, nor weak nor slow
To second all such hearts can dare;
As he shall know, well, dearly know,
Who sleeps in moonlight lux'ry there,
Tranquil as if his spirit lay
Becalm'd in Heav'n's approving ray.
Sleep on — for purer eyes than thine
Those waves are hush'd, those planets shine;
Sleep on, and be thy rest unmov'd
By the white moonbeam's dazzling power; —
None but the loving and the lov'd
Should be awake at this sweet hour.

And see — where, high above those rocks
That o'er the deep their shadows fling,
Yon turret stands; — where ebon locks,
As glossy as a heron's wing
Upon the turban of a king,[6]
Hang from the lattice, long and wild, —
'Tis she, that EMIR's blooming child,
All truth and tenderness and grace,
Though born of such ungentle race; —
An image of Youth's radiant Fountain
Springing in a desolate mountain![7]

Oh what a pure and sacred thing
Is Beauty, curtain'd from the sight
Of the gross world, illumining
One only mansion with her light!
Unseen by man's disturbing eye, —
The flow'r that blooms beneath the sea,

[1] A Moorish instrument of music.

[2] "At Gombaroon and other places in Persia, they have towers for the purpose of catching the wind, and cooling the houses." — *Le Bruyn.*

[3] "Iran is the true general name for the empire of Persia." — *Asiat. Res., Disc.* 5.

[4] "On the blades of their scimitars some verse from the Koran is usually inscribed." — *Russel.*

[5] "There is a kind of Rhododendros about Trebizond, whose flowers the bee feeds upon, and the honey thence drives people mad." — *Tournefort.*

[6] "Their kings wear plumes of black herons' feathers upon the right side, as a badge of sovereignty." — *Hanway.*

[7] "The Fountain of Youth, by a Mahometan tradition, is situated in some dark region of the East." — *Richardson.*

Too deep for sunbeams, doth not lie
Hid in more chaste obscurity.
So, HINDA, have thy face and mind,
Like holy myst'ries, lain enshrin'd.
And oh, what transport for a lover
To lift the veil that shades them o'er! —
Like those who, all at once, discover
In the lone deep some fairy shore,
Where mortal never trod before,
And sleep and wake in scented airs
No lip had ever breath'd but theirs.

Beautiful are the maids that glide,
On summer-eves, through YEMEN's [1] dales,
And bright the glancing looks they hide
Behind their litters' roseate veils; —
And brides, as delicate and fair
As the white jasmine flow'rs they wear,
Hath YEMEN in her blissful clime,
Who, lull'd in cool kiosk or bow'r,[2]
Before their mirrors count the time,[3]
And grow still lovelier ev'ry hour.
But never yet hath bride or maid
In ARABY's gay Haram smil'd,
Whose boasted brightness would not fade
Before AL HASSAN's blooming child.

Light as the angel shapes that bless
An infant's dream, yet not the less
Rich in all woman's loveliness; —
With eyes so pure, that from their ray
Dark Vice would turn abash'd away,
Blinded like serpents, when they gaze
Upon the em'rald's virgin blaze; —[4]
Yet fill'd with all youth's sweet desires,
Mingling the meek and vestal fires
Of other worlds with all the bliss,
The fond, weak tenderness of this:
A soul, too, more than half divine,
Where, through some shades of earthly feeling,
Religion's soften'd glories shine,
Like light through summer foliage stealing,
Shedding a glow of such mild hue,
So warm, and yet so shadowy too,
As makes the very darkness there
More beautiful than light elsewhere.

Such is the maid who, at this hour,
Hath risen from her restless sleep,
And sits alone in that high bow'r,
Watching the still and shining deep.
Ah! 'twas not thus, — with tearful eyes
And beating heart, — she us'd to gaze
On the magnificent earth and skies,
In her own land, in happier days.
Why looks she now so anxious down
Among those rocks, whose rugged frown
Blackens the mirror of the deep?
Whom waits she all this lonely night?
Too rough the rocks, too bold the steep,
For man to scale that turret's height! —

So deem'd at least her thoughtful sire,
When high, to catch the cool night-air,
After the day-beam's with'ring fire,[5]
He built her bow'r of freshness there,
And had it deck'd with costliest skill,
And fondly thought it safe as fair: —
Think, reverend dreamer! think so still,
Nor wake to learn what Love can dare; —
Love, all-defying Love, who sees
No charm in trophies won with ease; —
Whose rarest, dearest fruits of bliss
Are pluck'd on Danger's precipice!
Bolder than they, who dare not dive
For pearls, but when the sea's at rest,
Love, in the tempest most alive,
Hath ever held that pearl the best
He finds beneath the stormiest water.
Yes — ARABY's unrivall'd daughter,
Though high that tow'r, that rock-way rude,
There's one who, but to kiss thy cheek,
Would climb the' untrodden solitude
Of ARARAT's tremendous peak,[6]

[1] Arabia Felix.

[2] "In the midst of the garden is the chiosk, that is, a large room, commonly beautified with a fine fountain in the midst of it. It is raised nine or ten steps, and inclosed with gilded lattices, round which vines, jessamines, and honeysuckles, make a sort of green wall; large trees are planted round this place, which is the scene of their greatest pleasures." — *Lady M. W. Montagu.*

[3] The women of the East are never without their looking-glasses. "In Barbary," says *Shaw*, "they are so fond of their looking-glasses, which they hang upon their breasts, that they will not lay them aside, even when after the drudgery of the day they are obliged to go two or three miles with a pitcher or a goat's skin to fetch water." — *Travels.*

In other parts of Asia they wear little looking-glasses on their thumbs. "Hence (and from the lotus being considered the emblem of beauty) is the meaning of the following mute intercourse of two lovers before their parents: —

"'He with salute of def'rence due,
A lotus to his forehead prest;
She rais'd her mirror to his view,
Then turn'd it inward to her breast.'"
Asiatic Miscellany, vol. ii.

[4] "They say that if a snake or serpent fix his eyes on the lustre of those stones (emeralds), he immediately becomes blind." — *Ahmed ben Abdalaziz*, Treatise on Jewels.

[5] "At Gombaroon and the Isle of Ormus it is sometimes so hot, that the people are obliged to lie all day in the water." — *Marco Polo.*

[6] This mountain is generally supposed to be inaccessible. *Struy* says, "I can well assure the reader that their opinion is not true, who suppose this mount to be inaccessible." He

And think its steeps, though dark and dread,
Heav'n's pathways, if to thee they led!
Ev'n now thou see'st the flashing spray,
That lights his oar's impatient way;
Ev'n now thou hear'st the sudden shock
Of his swift bark against the rock,
And stretchest down thy arms of snow,
As if to lift him from below!
Like her to whom, at dead of night,
The bridegroom, with his locks of light,[1]
Came, in the flush of love and pride,
And seal'd the terrace of his bride;—
When, as she saw him rashly spring,
And midway up in danger cling,
She flung him down her long black hair,
Exclaiming, breathless, "There, love, there!"
And scarce did manlier nerve uphold
The hero ZAL in that fond hour,
Than wings the youth who, fleet and bold,
Now climbs the rocks to HINDA's bower.
See—light as up their granite steeps
The rock-goats of ARABIA clamber,[2]
Fearless from crag to crag he leaps,
And now is in the maiden's chamber.

She loves—but knows not whom she loves,
Nor what his race, nor whence he came;—
Like one who meets, in Indian groves,
Some beauteous bird without a name,
Brought by the last ambrosial breeze,
From isles in the' undiscover'd seas,
To show his plumage for a day
To wondr'ing eyes, and wing away!
Will *he* thus fly—her nameless lover?
ALLA forbid! 'twas by a moon
As fair as this, while singing over
Some ditty to her soft Kanoon,[3]
Alone, at this same witching hour,
She first beheld his radiant eyes
Gleam through the lattice of the bow'r,
Where nightly now they mix their sighs;
And thought some spirit of the air
(For what could waft a mortal there?)
Was pausing on his moonlight way
To listen to her lonely lay!
This fancy ne'er hath left her mind:
And—though, when terror's swoon had past,
She saw a youth, of mortal kind,
Before her in obeisance cast,—
Yet often since, when he hath spoken
Strange, awful words,—and gleams have broken
From his dark eyes, too bright to bear,
Oh! she hath fear'd her soul was giv'n
To some unhallow'd child of air,
Some erring Spirit cast from heav'n,
Like those angelic youths of old,
Who burn'd for maids of mortal mould,
Bewilder'd left the glorious skies,
And lost their heav'n for woman's eyes.
Fond girl! nor fiend nor angel he
Who woos thy young simplicity;
But one of earth's impassion'd sons,
As warm in love, as fierce in ire,
As the best heart whose current runs
Full of the Day God's living fire.

But quench'd to-night that ardour seems,
And pale his cheek, and sunk his brow;—
Never before, but in her dreams,
Had she beheld him pale as now:
And those were dreams of troubled sleep,
From which 'twas joy to wake and weep;
Visions, that will not be forgot,
But sadden every waking scene,
Like warning ghosts, that leave the spot
All wither'd where they once have been.

"How sweetly," said the trembling maid,
Of her own gentle voice afraid,
So long had they in silence stood,
Looking upon that tranquil flood—
"How sweetly does the moon-beam smile
"To-night upon yon leafy isle!
"Oft, in my fancy's wanderings,
"I've wish'd that little isle had wings,
"And we, within its fairy bow'rs,
"Were wafted off to seas unknown,
"Where not a pulse should beat but ours,
"And we might live, love, die alone!
"Far from the cruel and the cold,—
"Where the bright eyes of angels only
"Should come around us, to behold
"A paradise so pure and lonely.

adds, that "the lower part of the mountain is cloudy, misty, and dark, the middlemost part very cold, and like clouds of snow, but the upper regions perfectly calm."—It was on this mountain that the Ark was supposed to have rested after the Deluge, and part of it, they say, exists there still, which Struy thus gravely accounts for:—"Whereas none can remember that the air on the top of the hill did ever change or was subject either to wind or rain, which is presumed to be the reason that the Ark has endured so long without being rotten."—See *Carreri*'s Travels, where the doctor laughs at this whole account of Mount Ararat.

[1] In one of the books of the Shâh Nâmeh, when Zal (a celebrated hero of Persia, remarkable for his white hair,) comes to the terrace of his mistress Rodahver at night, she lets down her long tresses to assist him in his ascent;—he, however, manages it in a less romantic way by fixing his crook in a projecting beam.—See *Champion's Ferdosi*.

[2] "On the lofty hills of Arabia Petræa are rock-goats."—*Niebuhr*.

[3] "Canun, espèce de psaltérion, avec des cordes de boyaux; les dames en touchent dans le sérail, avec des décailles armées de pointes de cooc."—*Toderini, translated by De Cournand*.

"Would this be world enough for thee?"—
Playful she turn'd, that he might see
The passing smile her cheek put on;
But when she mark'd how mournfully
His eyes met hers, that smile was gone;
And, bursting into heart-felt tears,
"Yes, yes," she cried, "my hourly fears,
"My dreams have boded all too right—
"We part—for ever part—to-night!
"I knew, I knew it *could* not last—
"'Twas bright, 'twas heav'nly, but 'tis past!
"Oh! ever thus, from childhood's hour,
"I've seen my fondest hopes decay;
"I never lov'd a tree or flow'r,
"But 'twas the first to fade away.
"I never nurs'd a dear gazelle,
"To glad me with its soft black eye,
"But when it came to know me well,
"And love me, it was sure to die!
"Now too—the joy most like divine
"Of all I ever dreamt or knew,
"To see thee, hear thee, call thee mine,—
"Oh misery! must I lose *that* too?
"Yet go—on peril's brink we meet;—
"Those frightful rocks—that treach'rous sea—
"No, never come again—though sweet,
"Though heav'n, it may be death to thee.
"Farewell—and blessings on thy way,
"Where'er thou goest, beloved stranger!
"Better to sit and watch that ray,
"And think thee safe, though far away,
"Than have thee near me, and in danger!"

"Danger!—oh, tempt me not to boast—"
The youth exclaim'd—"thou little know'st
"What he can brave, who, born and nurst
"In Danger's paths, has dar'd her worst;
"Upon whose ear the signal-word
"Of strife and death is hourly breaking;
"Who sleeps with head upon the sword
"His fever'd hand must grasp in waking.
"Danger!—"
"Say on—thou fear'st not then,
"And we may meet—oft meet again?"

"Oh! look not so—beneath the skies
"I now fear nothing but those eyes.
"If aught on earth could charm or force
"My spirit from its destin'd course,—
"If aught could make this soul forget
"The bond to which its seal is set,
"'Twould be those eyes;—they, only they,
"Could melt that sacred seal away!
"But no—'tis fix'd—*my* awful doom
"Is fix'd—on this side of the tomb
"We meet no more;—why, why did Heav'n
"Mingle two souls that earth has riv'n,
"Has rent asunder wide as ours?
"Oh, Arab maid, as soon the Powers
"Of Light and Darkness may combine,
"As I be link'd with thee or thine!
"Thy Father——"
"Holy Alla save
"His grey head from that lightning glance!
"Thou know'st him not—he loves the brave;
"Nor lives there under heaven's expanse
"One who would prize, would worship thee
"And thy bold spirit, more than he.
"Oft when, in childhood, I have play'd
"With the bright falchion by his side,
"I've heard him swear his lisping maid
"In time should be a warrior's bride.
"And still, whene'er at Haram hours,
"I take him cool sherbets and flow'rs,
"He tells me, when in playful mood,
"A hero shall my bridegroom be,
"Since maids are best in battle woo'd,
And won with shouts of victory!
"Nay, turn not from me—thou alone
"Art form'd to make both hearts thy own.
"Go—join his sacred ranks—thou know'st
"The' unholy strife these Persians wage:—
"Good Heav'n, that frown!—even now thou glow'st
"With more than mortal warrior's rage.
"Haste to the camp by morning's light,
"And, when that sword is rais'd in fight,
"Oh still remember, Love and I
"Beneath its shadow trembling lie!
"One vict'ry o'er those Slaves of Fire,
"Those impious Ghebers, whom my sire
"Abhors——"
"Hold, hold—thy words are death—"
The stranger cried, as wild he flung
His mantle back, and show'd beneath
The Gheber belt that round him clung.—[1]
"Here, maiden, look—weep—blush to see
"All that thy sire abhors in me!
"Yes—*I* am of that impious race,
"Those Slaves of Fire who, morn and even,
"Hail their Creator's dwelling-place
"Among the living lights of heaven:[2]

[1] "They (the Ghebers) lay so much stress on their cushee or girdle, as not to dare to be an instant without it."—*Grose*'s Voyage.—"Le jeune homme nia d'abord la chose; mais, ayant été dépouillé de sa robe, et la large ceinture qu'il portoit comme Ghèbre," &c. &c.—*D'Herbelot*, art. Agduani. "Pour se distinguer des Idolâtres de l'Inde, les Guèbres se ceignent tous d'un cordon de laine, ou de poil de chameau."—*Encyclopédie Françoise*.
D'Herbelot says this belt was generally of leather.

[2] "They suppose the Throne of the Almighty is seated in

"Yes — *I* am of that outcast few,
"To IRAN and to vengeance true,
"Who curse the hour your Arabs came
"To desolate our shrines of flame,
"And swear, before God's burning eye,
"To break our country's chains, or die!
"Thy bigot sire, — nay, tremble not, —
"He, who gave birth to those dear eyes,
"With me is sacred as the spot
"From which our fires of worship rise!
"But know — 'twas he I sought that night,
"When, from my watch-boat on the sea,
"I caught this turret's glimm'ring light,
"And up the rude rocks desp'rately
"Rush'd to my prey — thou know'st the rest —
"I climb'd the gory vulture's nest,
"And found a trembling dove within; —
"Thine, thine the victory — thine the sin —
"If Love hath made one thought his own,
"That Vengeance claims first — last — alone!
"Oh! had we never, never met,
"Or could this heart ev'n now forget
"How link'd, how bless'd we might have been,
"Had fate not frown'd so dark between!
"Hadst thou been born a Persian maid,
"In neighbouring valleys had we dwelt,
"Through the same fields in childhood play'd,
"At the same kindling altar knelt, —
"Then, then, while all those nameless ties,
"In which the charm of Country lies,
"Had round our hearts been hourly spun,
"Till IRAN's cause and thine were one;
"While in thy lute's awak'ning sigh
"I heard the voice of days gone by,
"And saw, in every smile of thine,
"Returning hours of glory shine; —
"While the wrong'd Spirit of our Land
"Liv'd, look'd, and spoke her wrongs through thee, —
"God! who could then this sword withstand?
"Its very flash were victory!
"But now — estrang'd, divorc'd for ever,
"Far as the grasp of Fate can sever;
"Our only ties what love has wove, —
"In faith, friends, country, sunder'd wide;
"And then, then only, true to love,
"When false to all that's dear beside!
"Thy father IRAN's deadliest foe —
"Thyself, perhaps, ev'n now — but no —
"Hate never look'd so lovely yet!
"No — sacred to thy soul will be
"The land of him who could forget
"All but that bleeding land for thee.
"When other eyes shall see, unmov'd,
"Her widows mourn, her warriors fall,
"Thou'lt think how well one Gheber lov'd,
"And for *his* sake thou'lt weep for all!
"But look ——"
With sudden start he turn'd
And pointed to the distant wave,
Where lights, like charnel meteors, burn'd
Bluely, as o'er some seaman's grave:
And fiery darts, at intervals,[1]
Flew up all sparkling from the main,
As if each star that nightly falls,
Were shooting back to heav'n again.

"My signal lights! — I must away —
"Both, both are ruin'd, if I stay.
"Farewell — sweet life! thou cling'st in vain —
"Now, Vengeance, I am thine again!"
Fiercely he broke away, nor stopp'd,
Nor look'd — but from the lattice dropp'd
Down mid the pointed crags beneath,
As if he fled from love to death.
While pale and mute young HINDA stood,
Nor mov'd, till in the silent flood
A momentary plunge below
Startled her from her trance of woe; —
Shrieking she to the lattice flew,
"I come — I come — if in that tide
"Thou sleep'st to-night, I'll sleep there too,
"In death's cold wedlock, by thy side.
"Oh! I would ask no happier bed
"Than the chill wave my love lies under: —
"Sweeter to rest together dead,
"Far sweeter, than to live asunder!"
But no — their hour is not yet come —
Again she sees his pinnace fly,
Wafting him fleetly to his home,
Where'er that ill-starr'd home may lie;

the sun, and hence their worship of that luminary." — *Hanway*. "As to fire, the Ghebers place the spring-head of it in that globe of fire, the Sun, by them called Mythras, or Mihir, to which they pay the highest reverence, in gratitude for the manifold benefits flowing from its ministerial omniscience. But they are so far from confounding the subordination of the Servant with the majesty of its Creator, that they not only attribute no sort of sense or reasoning to the sun or fire, in any of its operations, but consider it as a purely passive blind instrument, directed and governed by the immediate impression on it of the will of God; but they do not even give that luminary, all-glorious as it is, more than the second rank amongst his works, reserving the first for that stupendous production of divine power, the mind of man."—*Grose*. The false charges brought against the religion of these people by their Mussulman tyrants is but one proof among many of the truth of this writer's remark, that "calumny is often added to oppression, if but for the sake of justifying it."

[1] "The Mamelukes that were in the other boat, when it was dark used to shoot up a sort of fiery arrows into the air which in some measure resembled lightning or falling stars." *Baumgarten*.

And calm and smooth it seem'd to win
Its moonlight way before the wind,
As if it bore all peace within,
Nor left one breaking heart behind!

THE Princess, whose heart was sad enough already, could have wish'd that FERAMORZ had chosen a less melancholy story; as it is only to the happy that tears are a luxury. Her Ladies, however, were by no means sorry that love was once more the Poet's theme; for, whenever he spoke of love, they said, his voice was as sweet as if he had chewed the leaves of that enchanted tree, which grows over the tomb of the musician, Tan-Sein.[1]

Their road all the morning had lain through a very dreary country;—through valleys, covered with a low bushy jungle, where, in more than one place, the awful signal of the bamboo staff[2], with the white flag at its top, reminded the traveller that, in that very spot, the tiger had made some human creature his victim. It was, therefore, with much pleasure that they arrived at sunset in a safe and lovely glen, and encamped under one of those holy trees, whose smooth columns and spreading roofs seem to destine them for natural temples of religion. Beneath this spacious shade, some pious hands had erected a row of pillars ornamented with the most beautiful porcelain[3], which now supplied the use of mirrors to the young maidens, as they adjusted their hair in descending from the palankeens. Here, while, as usual, the Princess sat listening anxiously, with FADLADEEN in one of his loftiest moods of criticism by her side, the young Poet, leaning against a branch of the tree, thus continued his story:—

THE morn hath risen clear and calm,
And o'er the Green Sea[4] palely shines,
Revealing BAHREIN'S[5] groves of palm,
And lighting KISHMA'S[5] amber vines.
Fresh smell the shores of ARABY,
While breezes from the Indian Sea
Blow round SELAMA'S[6] sainted cape,
And curl the shining flood beneath,—
Whose waves are rich with many a grape,
And cocoa-nut and flow'ry wreath,
Which pious seamen, as they pass'd,
Had tow'rd that holy headland cast—
Oblations to the Genii there
For gentle skies and breezes fair!
The nightingale now bends her flight[7]
From the high trees, where all the night
She sung so sweet, with none to listen,
And hides her from the morning star
Where thickets of pomegranate glisten
In the clear dawn,—bespangled o'er
With dew, whose night-drops would not stain
The best and brightest scimitar[8]
That ever youthful Sultan wore
On the first morning of his reign.

And see—the Sun himself!—on wings
Of glory up the East he springs.
Angel of Light! who from the time
Those heavens began their march sublime,
Hath first of all the starry choir
Trod in his Maker's steps of fire!
Where are the days, thou wondrous sphere,
When IRAN, like a sun-flow'r, turn'd
To meet that eye where'er it burn'd?—
When, from the banks of BENDEMEER
To the nut-groves of SAMARCAND,
Thy temples flam'd o'er all the land?

[1] "Within the enclosure which surrounds this monument (at Gualior) is a small tomb to the memory of Tan-Sein, a musician of incomparable skill, who flourished at the court of Akbar. The tomb is overshadowed by a tree, concerning which a superstitious notion prevails, that the chewing of its leaves will give an extraordinary melody to the voice."—*Narrative of a Journey from Agra to Ouzein, by W. Hunter, Esq.*

[2] "It is usual to place a small white triangular flag, fixed to a bamboo staff of ten or twelve feet long, at the place where a tiger has destroyed a man. It is common for the passengers also to throw each a stone or brick near the spot, so that in the course of a little time a pile equal to a good waggon-load is collected. The sight of these flags and piles of stones imparts a certain melancholy, not perhaps altogether void of apprehension."—*Oriental Field Sports*, vol. ii.

[3] "The Ficus Indica is called the Pagod Tree and Tree of Councils; the first, from the idols placed under its shade; the second, because meetings were held under its cool branches. In some places it is believed to be the haunt of spectres, as the ancient spreading oaks of Wales have been of fairies; in others are erected beneath the shade pillars of stone, or posts, elegantly carved, and ornamented with the most beautiful porcelain to supply the use of mirrors."—*Pennant.*

[4] The Persian Gulf.—"To dive for pearls in the Green Sea, or Persian Gulf."—*Sir W. Jones.*

[5] Islands in the Gulf.

[6] Or Selemeh, the genuine name of the headland at the entrance of the Gulf, commonly called Cape Musseldom. "The Indians, when they pass the promontory, throw cocoa-nuts, fruits, or flowers into the sea, to secure a propitious voyage."—*Morier.*

[7] "The nightingale sings from the pomegranate-groves in the day-time, and from the loftiest trees at night."—*Russel's* Aleppo.

[8] In speaking of the climate of Shiraz, Francklin says, "The dew is of such a pure nature, that if the brightest scimitar should be exposed to it all night, it would not receive the least rust."

Where are they? ask the shades of them
Who on CADESSIA's[1] bloody plains,
Saw fierce invaders pluck the gem
From IRAN's broken diadem,
And bind her ancient faith in chains:—
Ask the poor exile, cast alone
On foreign shores, unlov'd, unknown,
Beyond the Caspian's Iron Gates,[2]
Or on the snowy Mossian mountains,
Far from his beauteous land of dates,
Her jasmine bow'rs and sunny fountains:
Yet happier so than if he trod
His own belov'd, but blighted, sod,
Beneath a despot stranger's nod!—
Oh, he would rather houseless roam
Where Freedom and his God may lead,
Than be the sleekest slave at home
That crouches to the conqu'ror's creed!

Is IRAN's pride then gone for ever,
Quench'd with the flame in MITHRA's caves?—
No—she has sons, that never—never—
Will stoop to be the Moslem's slaves,
While heav'n has light or earth has graves;—
Spirits of fire, that brood not long,
But flash resentment back for wrong;
And hearts where, slow but deep, the seeds
Of vengeance ripen into deeds,
Till, in some treach'rous hour of calm,
They burst, like ZEILAN's giant palm,[3]
Whose buds fly open with a sound
That shakes the pigmy forests round!

Yes, EMIR! he, who scal'd that tow'r,
And, had he reach'd thy slumb'ring breast,
Had taught thee, in a Glieber's pow'r
How safe ev'n tyrant heads may rest—
Is one of many, brave as he,
Who loathe thy haughty race and thee;
Who, though they know the strife is vain,
Who, though they know the riven chain
Snaps but to enter in the heart
Of him who rends its links apart,
Yet dare the issue,—blest to be
Ev'n for one bleeding moment free,
And die in pangs of liberty!
Thou know'st them well,—'tis some moons since
Thy turban'd troops and blood-red flags,
Thou satrap of a bigot Prince,
Have swarm'd among these Green Sea crags;

Yet here, ev'n here, a sacred band
Ay, in the portal of that land
Thou, Arab, dar'st to call thy own,
Their spears across thy path have thrown;
Here—ere the winds half wing'd thee o'er—
Rebellion brav'd thee from the shore.

Rebellion! foul, dishonouring word,
Whose wrongful blight so oft has stain'd
The holiest cause that tongue or sword
Of mortal ever lost or gain'd.
How many a spirit, born to bless,
Hath sunk beneath that with'ring name,
Whom but a day's, an hour's success
Had wafted to eternal fame!
As exhalations, when they burst
From the warm earth, if chill'd at first,
If check'd in soaring from the plain,
Darken to fogs and sink again;—
But, if they once triumphant spread
Their wings above the mountain-head,
Become enthron'd in upper air,
And turn to sun-bright glories there!

And who is he, that wields the might
Of Freedom on the Green Sea brink,
Before whose sabre's dazzling light[4]
The eyes of YEMEN's warriors wink?
Who comes, embower'd in the spears
Of KERMAN's hardy mountaineers?—
Those mountaineers that truest, last,
Cling to their country's ancient rites,
As if that God, whose eyelids cast
Their closing gleam on IRAN's heights,
Among her snowy mountains threw
The last light of his worship too!

'Tis HAFED—name of fear, whose sound
Chills like the mutt'ring of a charm!—
Shout but that awful name around,
And palsy shakes the manliest arm.
'Tis HAFED, most accurs'd and dire
(So rank'd by Moslem hate and ire)
Of all the rebel Sons of Fire;
Of whose malign, tremendous power
The Arabs, at their mid-watch hour,
Such tales of fearful wonder tell,
That each affrighted sentinel
Pulls down his cowl upon his eyes,
Lest HAFED in the midst should rise!

[1] The place where the Persians were finally defeated by the Arabs, and their ancient monarchy destroyed.

[2] Derbend. — "Les Turcs appelent cette ville Demir Capi, Porte de Fer; ce sont les Caspiæ Portæ des anciens." — *D'Herbelot.*

[3] The Talpot or Talipot tree. "This beautiful palm-tree, which grows in the heart of the forests, may be classed among the loftiest trees, and becomes still higher when on the point of bursting forth from its leafy summit. The sheath which then envelopes the flower is very large, and, when it bursts, makes an explosion like the report of a cannon." — *Thunberg.*

[4] "When the bright cimitars make the eyes of our heroes wink." — *The Moallakat, Poem of Amru.*

A man, they say, of monstrous birth,
A mingled race of flame and earth,
Sprung from those old, enchanted kings,[1]
Who in their fairy helms, of yore,
A feather from the mystic wings
Of the Simoorgh resistless wore;
And gifted by the Fiends of Fire,
Who groan'd to see their shrines expire,
With charms that, all in vain withstood,
Would drown the Koran's light in blood!

Such were the tales, that won belief,
And such the colouring Fancy gave
To a young, warm, and dauntless Chief,—
One who, no more than mortal brave,
Fought for the land his soul ador'd,
For happy homes and altars free,
His only talisman, the sword,
His only spell-word, Liberty!
One of that ancient hero line,
Along whose glorious current shine
Names, that have sanctified their blood;
As Lebanon's small mountain-flood
Is render'd holy by the ranks
Of sainted cedars on its banks.[2]
'Twas not for him to crouch the knee
Tamely to Moslem tyranny;
'Twas not for him, whose soul was cast
In the bright mould of ages past,
Whose melancholy spirit, fed
With all the glories of the dead,
Though fram'd for Iran's happiest years,
Was born among her chains and tears!—
'Twas not for him to swell the crowd
Of slavish heads, that shrinking bow'd
Before the Moslem, as he pass'd,
Like shrubs beneath the poison-blast—
No—far he fled—indignant fled
The pageant of his country's shame;
While every tear her children shed
Fell on his soul like drops of flame;
And, as a lover hails the dawn
Of a first smile, so welcom'd he
The sparkle of the first sword drawn
For vengeance and for liberty!

But vain was valour—vain the flow'r
Of Kerman, in that deathful hour,
Against Al Hassan's whelming pow'r,—
In vain they met him, helm to helm,
Upon the threshold of that realm
He came in bigot pomp to sway,
And with their corpses block'd his way—
In vain—for every lance they rais'd,
Thousands around the conqueror blaz'd;
For every arm that lin'd their shore,
Myriads of slaves were wafted o'er,—
A bloody, bold, and countless crowd,
Before whose swarm as fast they bow'd
As dates beneath the locust cloud.

There stood—but one short league away
From old Harmozia's sultry bay—
A rocky mountain, o'er the Sea
Of Oman beetling awfully[3];
A last and solitary link
Of those stupendous chains that reach
From the broad Caspian's reedy brink
Down winding to the Green Sea beach.
Around its base the bare rocks stood,
Like naked giants, in the flood,
As if to guard the Gulf across;
While, on its peak, that brav'd the sky,
A ruin'd Temple tower'd, so high
That oft the sleeping albatross[4]
Struck the wild ruins with her wing,
And from her cloud-rock'd slumbering
Started—to find man's dwelling there
In her own silent fields of air!
Beneath, terrific caverns gave
Dark welcome to each stormy wave
That dash'd, like midnight revellers, in;—
And such the strange, mysterious din
At times throughout those caverns roll'd,—
And such the fearful wonders told

[1] Tahmuras, and other ancient Kings of Persia; whose adventures in Fairy-land among the Peris and Dives may be found in Richardson's curious Dissertation. The griffin Simoorgh, they say, took some feathers from her breast for Tahmuras, with which he adorned his helmet, and transmitted them afterwards to his descendants.

[2] This rivulet, says Dandini, is called the Holy River from the "cedar-saints" among which it rises.

In the *Lettres Edifiantes*, there is a different cause assigned for its name of Holy. "In these are deep caverns, which formerly served as so many cells for a great number of recluses, who had chosen these retreats as the only witnesses upon earth of the severity of their penance. The tears of these pious penitents gave the river of which we have just treated the name of the Holy River." — See *Châteaubriand*'s Beauties of Christianity.

[3] This mountain is my own creation, as the "stupendous chain," of which I suppose it a link, does not extend quite so far as the shores of the Persian Gulf. "This long and lofty range of mountains formerly divided Media from Assyria, and now forms the boundary of the Persian and Turkish empires. It runs parallel with the river Tigris and Persian Gulf, and almost disappearing in the vicinity of Gomberoon (Harmozia) seems once more to rise in the southern districts of Kerman, and following an easterly course through the centre of Meckraun and Balouchistan, is entirely lost in the deserts of Sinde." — *Kinnier*'s Persian Empire.

[4] These birds sleep in the air. They are most common about the Cape of Good Hope.

Of restless sprites imprison'd there,
That bold were Moslem, who would dare,
At twilight hour, to steer his skiff
Beneath the Gheber's lonely cliff.[1]

On the land side, those tow'rs sublime,
That seem'd above the grasp of Time,
Were sever'd from the haunts of men
By a wide, deep, and wizard glen,
So fathomless, so full of gloom,
No eye could pierce the void between :
It seem'd a place where Gholes might come
With their foul banquets from the tomb,
And in its caverns feed unseen.
Like distant thunder, from below,
The sound of many torrents came,
Too deep for eye or ear to know
If 'twere the sea's imprison'd flow,
Or floods of ever-restless flame.
For, each ravine, each rocky spire
Of that vast mountain stood on fire ; [2]
And, though for ever past the days
When God was worshipp'd in the blaze
That from its lofty altar shone, —
Though fled the priests, the vot'ries gone,
Still did the mighty flame burn on, [3]
Through chance and change, through good and ill,
Like its own God's eternal will,
Deep, constant, bright, unquenchable!

Thither the vanquish'd HAFED led
His little army's last remains ; —
"Welcome, terrific glen!" he said,
"Thy gloom, that Eblis' self might dread,
"Is Heav'n to him who flies from chains!"
O'er a dark, narrow bridge-way, known
To him and to his Chiefs alone,
They cross'd the chasm and gain'd the tow'rs, —
"This home," he cried, "at least is ours ; —
"Here we may bleed, unmock'd by hymns
"Of Moslem triumph o'er our head ;
"Here we may fall, nor leave our limbs
"To quiver to the Moslem's tread.
"Stretch'd on this rock, while vultures' beaks
"Are whetted on our yet warm cheeks,
"Here — happy that no tyrant's eye
"Gloats on our torments — we may die!" —

'Twas night when to those towers they came,
And gloomily the fitful flame,
That from the ruin'd altar broke,
Glared on his features, as he spoke : —
"'Tis o'er — what men could do, we've done —
"If IRAN *will* look tamely on,
"And see her priests, her warriors driv'n
"Before a sensual bigot's nod,
"A wretch who shrines his lust in heav'n,
"And makes a pander of his God ;
"If her proud sons, her high-born souls,
"Men, in whose veins — oh last disgrace!
"The blood of ZAL and RUSTAM [4] rolls, —
"If they *will* court this upstart race,
"And turn from MITHRA's ancient ray,
"To kneel at shrines of yesterday ;
"If they *will* crouch to IRAN's foes,
"Why, let them — till the land's despair
"Cries out to Heav'n, and bondage grows
"Too vile for ev'n the vile to bear!
"Till shame at last, long hidden, burns
"Their inmost core, and conscience turns
"Each coward tear the slave lets fall
"Back on his heart in drops of gall.
"But *here*, at least, are arms unchain'd,
"And souls that thraldom never stain'd ; —
"This spot, at least, no foot of slave
"Or satrap ever yet profaned ;
"And though but few — though fast the wave
"Of life is ebbing from our veins,
"Enough for vengeance still remains.
"As panthers, after set of sun,
"Rush from the roots of LEBANON
"Across the dark-sea robber's way, [5]
"We'll bound upon our startled prey ;
"And when some hearts that proudest swell
"Have felt our falchion's last farewell ;
"When Hope's expiring throb is o'er,
"And ev'n Despair can prompt no more,
"This spot shall be the sacred grave
"Of the last few who, vainly brave,
"Die for the land they cannot save!"

[1] "There is an extraordinary hill in this neighbourhood called Kohé Gubr, or the Guebre's mountain. It rises in the form of a lofty cupola, and on the summit of it, they say, are the remains of an Atush Kudu or Fire Temple. It is superstitiously held to be the residence of Deeves or Sprites, and many marvellous stories are recounted of the injury and witchcraft suffered by those who essayed in former days to ascend or explore it." — *Pottinger*'s Beloochistan.

[2] The Ghebers generally built their temples over subterraneous fires.

[3] "At the city of Yezd, in Persia, which is distinguished by the appellation of the Darûb Abadut, or Seat of Religion, the Guebres are permitted to have an Atush Kudu or Fire Temple (which, they assert, has had the sacred fire in it since the days of Zoroaster) in their own compartment of the city ; but for this indulgence they are indebted to the avarice, not the tolerance of the Persian government, which taxes them at twenty-five rupees each man." — *Pottinger*'s Beloochistan.

[4] Ancient heroes of Persia. "Among the Guebres there are some, who boast their descent from Rustam." — *Stephen*'s Persia.

[5] See Russel's account of the panther's attacking travellers in the night on the sea-shore about the roots of Lebanon.

His Chiefs stood round — each shining blade
Upon the broken altar laid —
And though so wild and desolate
Those courts, where once the Mighty sate;
Nor longer on those mould'ring tow'rs
Was seen the feast of fruits and flow'rs,
With which of old the Magi fed
The wand'ring Spirits of their dead;[1]
Though neither priest nor rites were there,
Nor charmed leaf of pure pomegranate;[2]
Nor hymn, nor censer's fragrant air,
Nor symbol of their worshipp'd planet;[3]
Yet the same God that heard their sires
Heard *them*, while on that altar's fires
They swore[4] the latest, holiest deed
Of the few hearts, still left to bleed,
Should be, in IRAN's injur'd name,
To die upon that Mount of Flame —
The last of all her patriot line,
Before her last untrampled Shrine!

Brave, suff'ring souls! they little knew
How many a tear their injuries drew
From one meek maid, one gentle foe,
Whom love first touch'd with others' woe —
Whose life, as free from thought as sin,
Slept like a lake, till Love threw in
His talisman, and woke the tide,
And spread its trembling circles wide.
Once, EMIR! thy unheeding child,
Mid all this havoc, bloom'd and smil'd, —
Tranquil as on some battle plain
The Persian lily shines and tow'rs,[5]
Before the combat's redd'ning stain
Hath fall'n upon her golden flow'rs.
Light-hearted maid, unaw'd, unmov'd,
While Heav'n but spar'd the sire she lov'd,
Once at thy evening tales of blood
Unlist'ning and aloof she stood —
And oft, when thou hast pac'd along
Thy Haram halls with furious heat,
Hast thou not curs'd her cheerful song,
That came across thee, calm and sweet,
Like lutes of angels, touch'd so near
Hell's confines, that the damn'd can hear!

Far other feelings Love hath brought —
Her soul all flame, her brow all sadness,
She now has but the one dear thought,
And thinks that o'er, almost to madness!
Oft doth her sinking heart recall
His words — "for *my* sake weep for all;"
And bitterly, as day on day
Of rebel carnage fast succeeds,
She weeps a lover snatch'd away
In ev'ry Gheber wretch that bleeds.
There's not a sabre meets her eye,
But with his life-blood seems to swim;
There's not an arrow wings the sky,
But fancy turns its point to him.
No more she brings with footstep light
AL HASSAN's falchion for the fight;
And — had he look'd with clearer sight,
Had not the mists, that ever rise
From a foul spirit, dimm'd his eyes —
He would have mark'd her shudd'ring frame,
When from the field of blood he came,
The falt'ring speech — the look estrang'd —
Voice, step, and life, and beauty chang'd —
He would have mark'd all this, and known
Such change is wrought by Love alone!

Ah! not the Love, that should have bless'd
So young, so innocent a breast;
Not the pure, open, prosp'rous Love,
That, pledg'd on earth and seal'd above,
Grows in the world's approving eyes,
In friendship's smile and home's caress,
Collecting all the heart's sweet ties
Into one knot of happiness!
No, HINDA, no, — thy fatal flame
Is nurs'd in silence, sorrow, shame; —
A passion, without hope or pleasure,
In thy soul's darkness buried deep,
It lies like some ill-gotten treasure, —
Some idol, without shrine or name,
O'er which its pale-ey'd vot'ries keep
Unholy watch, while others sleep.

Seven nights have darken'd OMAN's sea,
Since last, beneath the moonlight ray,
She saw his light oar rapidly
Hurry her Gheber's bark away, —
And still she goes, at midnight hour,
To weep alone in that high bow'r,

[1] "Among other ceremonies the Magi used to place upon the tops of high towers various kinds of rich viands, upon which it was supposed the Peris and the spirits of their departed heroes regaled themselves." — *Richardson.*

[2] In the ceremonies of the Ghebers round their Fire, as described by Lord, "the Daroo," he says, "giveth them water to drink, and a pomegranate leaf to chew in the mouth, to cleanse them from inward uncleanness."

[3] "Early in the morning, they (the Parsees or Ghebers at Oulam) go in crowds to pay their devotions to the Sun, to whom upon all the altars there are spheres consecrated, made by magic, resembling the circles of the sun, and when the sun rises, these orbs seem to be inflamed, and to turn round with a great noise. They have every one a censer in their hands, and offer incense to the sun." — *Rabbi Benjamin.*

[4] "Nul d'entre eux oseroit se parjurer, quand il a pris à témoin cet élément terrible et vengeur."—*Encyclop. Françoise.*

[5] "A vivid verdure succeeds the autumnal rains, and the ploughed fields are covered with the Persian lily, of a resplendent yellow colour." — *Russel's* Aleppo.

And watch, and look along the deep
For him whose smiles first made her weep;—
But watching, weeping, all was vain,
She never saw his bark again.
The owlet's solitary cry,
The night-hawk, flitting darkly by,
And oft the hateful carrion bird,
Heavily flapping his clogg'd wing,
Which reek'd with that day's banqueting —
Was all she saw, was all she heard.

'Tis the eighth morn — Al Hassan's brow
Is brighten'd with unusual joy —
What mighty mischief glads him now,
Who never smiles but to destroy?
The sparkle upon Herkend's Sea,
When toss'd at midnight furiously,[1]
Tells not of wreck and ruin nigh,
More surely than that smiling eye!
" Up, daughter, up — the Kerna's[2] breath
" Has blown a blast would waken death,
" And yet thou sleep'st — up, child, and see
" This blessed day for Heaven and me,
" A day more rich in Pagan blood
" Than ever flash'd o'er Oman's flood.
" Before another dawn shall shine,
" His head — heart — limbs — will all be mine;
" This very night his blood shall steep
" These hands all over ere I sleep!" —

" *His* blood!" she faintly scream'd — her mind
Still singling *one* from all mankind —
" Yes — spite of his ravines and tow'rs,
" Hafed, my child, this night is ours.
" Thanks to all-conqu'ring treachery,
" Without whose aid the links accurst,
" That bind these impious slaves, would be
" Too strong for Alla's self to burst!
" That rebel fiend, whose blade has spread
" My path with piles of Moslem dead,
" Whose baffling spells had almost driv'n
" Back from their course the Swords of Heav'n,
" This night, with all his band, shall know
" How deep an Arab's steel can go,
" When God and Vengeance speed the blow.
" And — Prophet! by that holy wreath
" Thou wor'st on Ohod's field of death,[3]
" I swear, for ev'ry sob that parts
" In anguish from these heathen hearts,
" A gem from Persia's plunder'd mines
" Shall glitter on thy Shrine of Shrines.
" But, ha! — she sinks — that look so wild —
" Those livid lips — my child, my child,
" This life of blood befits not thee,
" And thou must back to Araby.
" Ne'er had I risk'd thy timid sex
" In scenes that man himself might dread,
" Had I not hop'd our ev'ry tread
" Would be on prostrate Persian necks —
" Curst race, they offer swords instead!
" But cheer thee, maid, — the wind that now
" Is blowing o'er thy feverish brow,
" To-day shall waft thee from the shore;
" And, ere a drop of this night's gore
" Have time to chill in yonder tow'rs,
" Thou'lt see thy own sweet Arab bow'rs!"

His bloody boast was all too true;
There lurk'd one wretch among the few
Whom Hafed's eagle eye could count
Around him on that Fiery Mount, —
One miscreant, who for gold betray'd
The pathway through the valley's shade
To those high tow'rs, where Freedom stood
In her last hold of flame and blood
Left on the field last dreadful night,
When, sallying from their Sacred height,
The Ghebers fought hope's farewell fight,
He lay — but died not with the brave;
That sun, which should have gilt his grave,
Saw him a traitor and a slave; —
And, while the few, who thence return'd
To their high rocky fortress, mourn'd
For him among the matchless dead
They left behind on glory's bed,
He liv'd, and, in the face of morn,
Laugh'd them and Faith and Heav'n to scorn.

Oh for a tongue to curse the slave,
Whose treason, like a deadly blight,
Comes o'er the councils of the brave,
And blasts them in their hour of might!
May Life's unblessed cup for him
Be drugg'd with treach'ries to the brim, —
With hopes, that but allure to fly,
With joys, that vanish while he sips,
Like Dead Sea fruits, that tempt the eye,
But turn to ashes on the lips![4]

[1] " It is observed, with respect to the Sea of Herkend, that when it is tossed by tempestuous winds it sparkles like fire." — *Travels of Two Mohammedans*

[2] A kind of trumpet; — it " was that used by Tamerlane, the sound of which is described as uncommonly dreadful, and so loud as to be heard at the distance of several miles." — *Richardson.*

[3] " Mohammed had two helmets, an interior and exterior one; the latter of which, called Al Mawashah, the fillet, wreath, or wreathed garland, he wore at the battle of Ohod." — *Universal History.*

[4] " They say that there are apple-trees upon the sides of this sea, which bear very lovely fruit, but within are all full of ashes." — *Thevenot.* The same is asserted of the oranges there; vide *Witman's* Travels in Asiatic Turkey.

" The Asphalt Lake, known by the name of the Dead Sea,

His country's curse, his children's shame,
Outcast of virtue, peace, and fame,
May he, at last, with lips of flame
On the parch'd desert thirsting die, —
While lakes, that shone in mockery nigh,[1]
Are fading off, untouch'd, untasted,
Like the once glorious hopes he blasted!
And, when from earth his spirit flies,
Just Prophet, let the damn'd-one dwell
Full in the sight of Paradise,
Beholding heav'n, and feeling hell!

Lalla Rookh had, the night before, been visited by a dream which, in spite of the impending fate of poor Hafed, made her heart more than usually cheerful during the morning, and gave her cheeks all the freshened animation of a flower that the Bid-musk has just pass'd over.[2] She fancied that she was sailing on that Eastern Ocean, where the sea-gipsies, who live for ever on the water[3], enjoy a perpetual summer in wandering from isle to isle, when she saw a small gilded bark approaching her. It was like one of those boats which the Maldivian islanders send adrift, at the mercy of winds and waves, loaded with perfumes, flowers, and odoriferous wood, as an offering to the Spirit whom they call King of the Sea. At first, this little bark appeared to be empty, but, on coming nearer——

She had proceeded thus far in relating the dream to her Ladies, when Feramorz appeared at the door of the pavilion. In his presence, of course, every thing else was forgotten, and the continuance of the story was instantly requested by all. Fresh wood of aloes was set to burn in the cassolets; — the violet sherbets[4] were hastily handed round, and after a short prelude on his lute, in the pathetic measure of Nava[5], which is always used to express the lamentations of absent lovers, the Poet thus continued: —

The day is low'ring — stilly black
Sleeps the grim wave, while heav'ns rack,
Dispers'd and wild, 'twixt earth and sky
Hangs like a shatter'd canopy.
There's not a cloud in that blue plain
But tells of storm to come or past; —
Here, flying loosely as the mane
Of a young war-horse in the blast; —
There, roll'd in masses dark and swelling,
As proud to be the thunder's dwelling!
While some, already burst and riv'n,
Seem melting down the verge of heav'n;
As though the infant storm had rent
The mighty womb that gave him birth,
And, having swept the firmament,
Was now in fierce career for earth.

On earth 'twas yet all calm around,
A pulseless silence, dread, profound,
More awful than the tempest's sound.

is very remarkable on account of the considerable proportion of salt which it contains. In this respect it surpasses every other known water on the surface of the earth. This great proportion of bitter tasted salts is the reason why neither animal nor plant can live in this water." — *Klaproth's* Chemical Analysis of the Water of the Dead Sea, Annals of Philosophy, January, 1813. *Hasselquist*, however, doubts the truth of this last assertion, as there are shell-fish to be found in the lake.

Lord Byron has a similar allusion to the fruits of the Dead Sea, in that wonderful display of genius, his third Canto of Childe Harold, — magnificent beyond any thing, perhaps, that even *he* has ever written.

[1] "The Suhrab or Water of the Desert is said to be caused by the rarefaction of the atmosphere from extreme heat; and, which augments the delusion, it is most frequent in hollows, where water might be expected to lodge. I have seen bushes and trees reflected in it, with as much accuracy as though it had been the face of a clear and still lake." — *Pottinger*.

"As to the unbelievers, their works are like a vapour in a plain, which the thirsty traveller thinketh to be water, until when he cometh thereto he findeth it to be nothing." — *Koran*, chap. 24.

[2] "A wind which prevails in February, called Bidmusk, from a small and odoriferous flower of that name." — "The wind which blows these flowers commonly lasts till the end of the month." — *Le Bruyn*.

[3] "The Biajús are of two races: the one is settled on Borneo, and are a rude but warlike and industrious nation, who reckon themselves the original possessors of the island of Borneo. The other is a species of sea-gipsies or itinerant fishermen, who live in small covered boats, and enjoy a perpetual summer on the eastern ocean, shifting to leeward from island to island, with the variations of the monsoon. In some of their customs this singular race resemble the natives of the Maldivia islands. The Maldivians annually launch a small bark, loaded with perfumes, gums, flowers, and odoriferous wood, and turn it adrift at the mercy of wind and waves, as an offering to the *Spirit of the Winds*; and sometimes similar offerings are made to the spirit whom they term *the King of the Sea*. In like manner the Biajús perform their offering to the god of evil, launching a small bark, loaded with all the sins and misfortunes of the nation, which are imagined to fall on the unhappy crew that may be so unlucky as first to meet with it." — *Dr. Leyden* on the Language and Literature of the Indo-Chinese Nations.

[4] "The sweet-scented violet is one of the plants most esteemed, particularly for its great use in Sorbet, which they make of violet sugar." — *Hasselquist*.

"The sherbet they most esteem, and which is drunk by the Grand Signor himself, is made of violets and sugar." — *Tavernier*.

[5] "Last of all she took a guitar, and sung a pathetic air in the measure called Nava, which is always used to express the lamentations of absent lovers." — *Persian Tales*.

The diver steer'd for ORMUS' bowers,
And moor'd his skiff till calmer hours;
The sea-birds, with portentous screech,
Flew fast to land;—upon the beach
The pilot oft had paus'd, with glance
Turn'd upward to that wild expanse;—
And all was boding, drear, and dark
As her own soul, when HINDA's bark
Went slowly from the Persian shore.—
No music tim'd her parting oar,[1]
Nor friends upon the less'ning strand
Linger'd, to wave the unseen hand,
Or speak the farewell, heard no more;—
But lone, unheeded, from the bay
The vessel takes its mournful way,
Like some ill-destin'd bark that steers
In silence through the Gate of Tears.[2]

And where was stern AL HASSAN then?
Could not that saintly scourge of men
From bloodshed and devotion spare
One minute for a farewell there?
No—close within, in changeful fits
Of cursing and of pray'r, he sits
In savage lonelines to brood
Upon the coming night of blood,—
With that keen, second-scent of death,
By which the vulture snuffs his food
In the still warm and living breath![3]
While o'er the wave his weeping daughter
Is wafted from these scenes of slaughter,—
As a young bird of BABYLON,—[4]
Let loose to tell of vict'ry won,
Flies home, with wing, ah! not unstain'd
By the red hands that held her chain'd.

And does the long-left home she seeks
Light up no gladness on her cheeks?
The flow'rs she nurs'd—the well-known groves,
Where oft in dreams her spirit roves—
Once more to see her dear gazelles
Come bounding with their silver bells;
Her birds' new plumage to behold,
And the gay, gleaming fishes count,
She left, all filleted with gold,
Shooting around their jasper fount;[5]
Her little garden mosque to see,
And once again, at evening hour,
To tell her ruby rosary[6]
In her own sweet acacia bow'r.—
Can these delights, that wait her now,
Call up no sunshine on her brow?
No,—silent, from her train apart,—
As even now she felt at heart
The chill of her approaching doom,—
She sits, all lovely in her gloom
As a pale Angel of the Grave;
And o'er the wide, tempestuous wave,
Looks, with a shudder, to those tow'rs,
Where, in a few short awful hours,
Blood, blood, in streaming tides shall run,
Foul incense for to-morrow's sun!
"Where art thou, glorious stranger! thou,
"So lov'd, so lost, where art thou now?
"Foe—Gheber—infidel—whate'er
"The' unhallow'd name thou'rt doom'd to bear,
"Still glorious—still to this fond heart
"Dear as its blood, whate'er thou art!
"Yes—ALLA, dreadful ALLA! yes—
"If there be wrong, be crime in this,
"Let the black waves that round us roll,
"Whelm me this instant, ere my soul,
"Forgetting faith—home—father—all—
"Before its earthly idol fall,
"Nor worship ev'n Thyself above him—
"For, oh, so wildly do I love him,
"Thy Paradise itself were dim
"And joyless, if not shar'd with him!"
Her hands were clasp'd—her eyes upturn'd,
Dropping their tears like moonlight rain;
And, though her lip, fond raver! burn'd
With words of passion, bold, profane,
Yet was there light around her brow,
A holiness in those dark eyes,
Which show'd,—though wand'ring earthward now,—
Her spirit's home was in the skies.
Yes—for a spirit pure as hers
Is always pure, ev'n while it errs;
As sunshine, broken in the rill,
Though turn'd astray, is sunshine still!

[1] "The Easterns used to set out on their longer voyages with music."—*Harmer.*

[2] "The Gate of Tears, the straits or passage into the Red Sea, commonly called Babelmandel. It received this name from the old Arabians, on account of the danger of the navigation, and the number of shipwrecks by which it was distinguished; which induced them to consider as dead, and to wear mourning for all who had the boldness to hazard the passage through it into the Ethiopic ocean."—*Richardson.*

[3] "I have been told that whensoever an animal falls down dead, one or more vultures, unseen before, instantly appear."—*Pennant.*

[4] "They fasten some writing to the wings of a Bagdat or Babylonian pigeon."—*Travels of certain Englishmen.*

[5] "The Empress of Jehan-Guire used to divert herself with feeding tame fish in her canals, some of which were many years afterwards known by fillets of gold, which she caused to be put round them."—*Harris.*

[6] "Le Tespih, qui est un chapelet, composé de 99 petites boules d'agathe, de jaspe, d'ambre, de corail, ou d'autre matière précieuse. J'en ai vu un superbe au Seigneur Jerpos; il étoit de belles et grosses perles parfaites et égales, estimé trente mille piastres."—*Toderini.*

So wholly had her mind forgot
All thoughts but one, she heeded not
The rising storm — the wave that cast
A moment's midnight, as it pass'd —
Nor heard the frequent shout, the tread
Of gath'ring tumult o'er her head —
Clash'd swords, and tongues that seem'd to vie
With the rude riot of the sky. —
But, hark! — that war-whoop on the deck —
That crash, as if each engine there,
Mast, sails, and all, were gone to wreck,
Mid yells and stampings of despair!
Merciful Heaven! what *can* it be?
'Tis not the storm, though fearfully
The ship has shudder'd as she rode
O'er mountain-waves — "Forgive me, God!
"Forgive me" — shriek'd the maid, and knelt,
Trembling all over — for she felt
As if her judgment-hour was near;
While crouching round, half dead with fear,
Her handmaids clung, nor breath'd, nor stirr'd —
When, hark! — a second crash — a third —
And now, as if a bolt of thunder
Had riv'n the labouring planks asunder,
The deck falls in — what horrors then!
Blood, waves, and tackle, swords and men
Come mix'd together through the chasm, —
Some wretches in their dying spasm
Still fighting on — and some that call
"For God and Iran!" as they fall!

Whose was the hand that turn'd away
The perils of the' infuriate fray,
And snatch'd her breathless from beneath
This wilderment of wreck and death?
She knew not — for a faintness came
Chill o'er her, and her sinking frame
Amid the ruins of that hour
Lay, like a pale and scorched flow'r,
Beneath the red volcano's shower.
But, oh! the sights and sounds of dread
That shock'd her ere her senses fled!
The yawning deck — the crowd that strove
Upon the tott'ring planks above —
The sail, whose fragments, shiv'ring o'er
The strugglers' heads, all dash'd with gore,
Flutter'd like bloody flags — the clash
Of sabres, and the lightning's flash
Upon their blades, high toss'd about
Like meteor brands[1] — as if throughout
The elements one fury ran,
One gen'ral rage, that left a doubt
Which was the fiercer, Heav'n or Man!

Once too — but no — it could not be —
'Twas fancy all — yet once she thought,
While yet her fading eyes could see,
High on the ruin'd deck she caught
A glimpse of that unearthly form,
That glory of her soul, — even then,
Amid the whirl of wreck and storm,
Shining above his fellow-men,
As, on some black and troublous night,
The Star of Egypt[2], whose proud light
Never hath beam'd on those who rest
In the White Islands of the West,[3]
Burns through the storm with looks of flame
That put Heav'n's cloudier eyes to shame.
But no — 'twas but the minute's dream —
A fantasy — and ere the scream
Had half-way pass'd her pallid lips,
A death-like swoon, a chill eclipse
Of soul and sense its darkness spread
Around her, and she sunk, as dead.

How calm, how beautiful comes on
The stilly hour, when storms are gone;
When warring winds have died away,
And clouds, beneath the glancing ray,
Melt off, and leave the land and sea
Sleeping in bright tranquillity, —
Fresh as if Day again were born,
Again upon the lap of Morn! —
When the light blossoms, rudely torn
And scatter'd at the whirlwind's will,
Hang floating in the pure air still,
Filling it all with precious balm,
In gratitude for this sweet calm; —
And every drop the thunder-show'rs
Have left upon the grass and flow'rs
Sparkles, as 'twere that lightning-gem[4]
Whose liquid flame is born of them!
When, 'stead of one unchanging breeze,
There blow a thousand gentle airs,
And each a diff'rent perfume bears, —
As if the loveliest plants and trees
Had vassal breezes of their own
To watch and wait on them alone,
And waft no other breath than theirs:

[1] The meteors that Pliny calls "faces."

[2] "The brilliant Canopus, unseen in European climates." — *Brown.*

[3] See Wilford's learned Essays on the Sacred Isles in the West.

[4] A precious stone of the Indies, called by the ancients Ceraunium, because it was supposed to be found in places where thunder had fallen. Tertullian says it has a glittering appearance, as if there had been fire in it; and the author of the Dissertation in Harris's Voyages, supposes it to be the opal.

When the blue waters rise and fall,
In sleepy sunshine mantling all;
And ev'n that swell the tempest leaves
Is like the full and silent heaves
Of lovers' hearts, when newly blest,
Too newly to be quite at rest.

Such was the golden hour that broke
Upon the world, when HINDA woke
From her long trance, and heard around
No motion but the water's sound
Rippling against the vessel's side,
As slow it mounted o'er the tide.—
But where is she?—her eyes are dark,
Are wilder'd still—is this the bark,
The same, that from HARMOZIA's bay
Bore her at morn—whose bloody way
The sea-dog track'd?—no—strange and new
Is all that meets her wond'ring view.
Upon a galliot's deck she lies,
Beneath no rich pavilion's shade,—
No plumes to fan her sleeping eyes,
Nor jasmine on her pillow laid.
But the rude litter, roughly spread
With war-cloaks, is her homely bed,
And shawl and sash, on javelins hung,
For awning o'er her head are flung.
Shudd'ring she look'd around—there lay
A group of warriors in the sun,
Resting their limbs, as for that day
Their ministry of death were done.
Some gazing on the drowsy sea,
Lost in unconscious reverie;
And some, who seem'd but ill to brook
That sluggish calm, with many a look
To the slack sail impatient cast,
As loose it flagg'd around the mast.

Blest ALLA! who shall save her now?
There's not in all that warrior band
One Arab sword, one turban'd brow
From her own Faithful Moslem land.
Their garb—the leathern belt[1] that wraps
Each yellow vest[2]—that rebel hue—
The Tartar fleece upon their caps—[3]
Yes—yes—her fears are all too true,
And Heav'n hath, in this dreadful hour,
Abandon'd her to HAFED's power;
HAFED, the Gheber!—at the thought
Her very heart's blood chills within;
He, whom her soul was hourly taught
To loathe, as some foul fiend of sin,
Some minister, whom Hell had sent,
To spread its blast, where'er he went,
And fling, as o'er our earth he trod,
His shadow betwixt man and God!
And she is now his captive,—thrown
In his fierce hands, alive, alone;
His the' infuriate band she sees,
All infidels—all enemies!
What was the daring hope that then
Cross'd her like light'ning, as again,
With boldness that despair had lent,
She darted through that armed crowd
A look so searching, so intent,
That ev'n the sternest warrior bow'd
Abash'd, when he her glances caught,
As if he guess'd whose form they sought.
But no—she sees him not—'tis gone,
The vision that before her shone
Through all the maze of blood and storm,
Is fled—'twas but a phantom form—
One of those passing, rainbow dreams,
Half light, half shade, which Fancy's beams
Paint on the fleeting mists that roll
In trance or slumber round the soul.

But now the bark, with livelier bound,
Scales the blue wave—the crew's in motion,
The oars are out, and with light sound
Break the bright mirror of the ocean,
Scatt'ring its brilliant fragments round.
And now she sees—with horror sees,
Their course is tow'rd that mountain-hold,—
Those tow'rs, that make her life-blood freeze,
Where MECCA's godless enemies
Lie, like beleaguer'd scorpions, roll'd
In their last deadly, venomous fold!
Amid the' illumin'd land and flood
Sunless that mighty mountain stood;
Save where, above its awful head,
There shone a flaming cloud, blood-red,
As 'twere the flag of destiny
Hung out to mark where death would be!

Had her bewilder'd mind the pow'r
Of thought in this terrific hour,
She well might marvel where or how
Man's foot could scale that mountain's brow,
Since ne'er had Arab heard or known
Of path but through the glen alone.—
But every thought was lost in fear,
When, as their bounding bark drew near

[1] *D'Herbelot*, art. Agduani.

[2] "The Guebres are known by a dark yellow colour, which the men affect in their clothes." — *Thevenot.*

[3] "The Kolah, or cap, worn by the Persians, is made of the skin of the sheep of Tartary." — *Waring.*

The craggy base, she felt the waves
Hurry them tow'rd those dismal caves,
That from the Deep in windings pass
Beneath that Mount's volcanic mass;—
And loud a voice on deck commands
To low'r the mast and light the brands!—
Instantly o'er the dashing tide
Within a cavern's mouth they glide,
Gloomy as that eternal Porch
Through which departed spirits go:—
Not ev'n the flare of brand and torch
Its flick'ring light could further throw
Than the thick flood that boil'd below.
Silent they floated—as if each
Sat breathless, and too aw'd for speech
In that dark chasm, where even sound
Seem'd dark,—so sullenly around
The goblin echoes of the cave
Mutter'd it o'er the long black wave,
As 'twere some secret of the grave!

But soft—they pause—the current turns
Beneath them from its onward track;—
Some mighty, unseen barrier spurns
The vexed tide, all foaming, back,
And scarce the oars' redoubled force
Can stem the eddy's whirling force;
When, hark!—some desp'rate foot has sprung
Among the rocks—the chain is flung—
The oars are up—the grapple clings,
And the toss'd bark in moorings swings.
Just then, a day-beam through the shade
Broke tremulous—but, ere the maid
Can see from whence the brightness steals,
Upon her brow she shudd'ring feels
A viewless hand, that promptly ties
A bandage round her burning eyes;
While the rude litter where she lies,
Uplifted by the warrior throng,
O'er the steep rocks is borne along.

Blest power of sunshine!—genial Day,
What balm, what life is in thy ray!
To feel thee is such real bliss,
That had the world no joy but this,
To sit in sunshine calm and sweet,—
It were a world too exquisite
For man to leave it for the gloom,
The deep, cold shadow of the tomb.
Ev'n HINDA, though she saw not where
Or whither wound the perilous road,
Yet knew by that awak'ning air,
Which suddenly around her glow'd,
That they had ris'n from darkness then,
And breath'd the sunny world again!

But soon this balmy freshness fled—
For now the steepy labyrinth led
Through damp and gloom—'mid crash of boughs,
And fall of loosen'd crags that rouse
The leopard from his hungry sleep,
Who, starting, thinks each crag a prey,
And long is heard, from steep to steep,
Chasing them down their thund'ring way!
The jackal's cry—the distant moan
Of the hyæna, fierce and lone—
And that eternal sadd'ning sound
Of torrents in the glen beneath,
As 'twere the ever-dark Profound
That rolls beneath the Bridge of Death!
All, all is fearful—ev'n to see,
To gaze on those terrific things
She now but blindly hears, would be
Relief to her imaginings;
Since never yet was shape so dread,
But Fancy, thus in darkness thrown,
And by such sounds of horror fed,
Could frame more dreadful of her own.

But does she dream? has Fear again
Perplex'd the workings of her brain,
Or did a voice, all music, then
Come from the gloom, low whisp'ring near—
"Tremble not, love, thy Gheber's here?"
She *does* not dream—all sense, all ear,
She drinks the words, "Thy Gheber's here."
'Twas his own voice—she could not err—
Throughout the breathing world's extent
There was but *one* such voice for her,
So kind, so soft, so eloquent!
Oh, sooner shall the rose of May
Mistake her own sweet nightingale,
And to some meaner minstrel's lay
Open her bosom's glowing veil,[1]
Than Love shall ever doubt a tone,
A breath of the beloved one!

Though blest, 'mid all her ills, to think
She has that one beloved near,
Whose smile, though met on ruin's brink,
Hath power to make even ruin dear,—
Yet soon this gleam of rapture, crost
By fears for him, is chill'd and lost.
How shall the ruthless HAFED brook
That one of Gheber blood should look,
With aught but curses in his eye,
On her a maid of ARABY—

[1] A frequent image among the oriental poets. "The nightingales warbled their enchanting notes, and rent the thin veils of the rose-bud and the rose."—*Jami*.

A Moslem maid—the child of him,
Whose bloody banner's dire success
Hath left their altars cold and dim,
And their fair land a wilderness!
And, worse than all, that night of blood
Which comes so fast—Oh! who shall stay
The sword, that once hath tasted food
Of Persian hearts, or turn its way?
What arm shall then the victim cover,
Or from her father shield her lover?

"Save him, my God!" she inly cries—
"Save him this night—and if thine eyes
"Have ever welcom'd with delight
"The sinner's tears, the sacrifice
"Of sinners' hearts—guard him this night,
"And here, before thy throne, I swear
"From my heart's inmost core to tear
"Love, hope, remembrance, though they be
"Link'd with each quiv'ring life-string there,
"And give it bleeding all to Thee!
"Let him but live,—the burning tear,
"The sighs, so sinful, yet so dear,
"Which have been all too much his own,
"Shall from this hour be Heaven's alone.
"Youth pass'd in penitence, and age
"In long and painful pilgrimage,
"Shall leave no traces of the flame
"That wastes me now—nor shall his name
"Ere bless my lips, but when I pray
"For his dear spirit, that away
"Casting from its angelic ray
"The' eclipse of earth, he, too, may shine
"Redeem'd, all glorious and all Thine!
"Think—think what victory to win
"One radiant soul like his from sin,—
"One wand'ring star of virtue back
"To its own native, heaven-ward track!
"Let him but live, and both are Thine,
"Together thine—for, blest or crost,
"Living or dead, his doom is mine,
"And, if *he* perish, both are lost!"

THE next evening LALLA ROOKH was entreated by her Ladies to continue the relation of her wonderful dream; but the fearful interest that hung round the fate of HINDA and her lover had completely removed every trace of it from her mind;—much to the disappointment of a fair seer or two in her train, who prided themselves on their skill in interpreting visions, and who had already remarked, as an unlucky omen, that the Princess, on the very morning after the dream, had worn a silk dyed with the blossoms of the sorrowful tree, Nilica.[1]

FADLADEEN, whose indignation had more than once broken out during the recital of some parts of this heterodox poem, seemed at length to have made up his mind to the infliction; and took his seat this evening with all the patience of a martyr, while the Poet resumed his profane and seditious story as follows:—

To tearless eyes and hearts at ease
The leafy shores and sun-bright seas,
That lay beneath that mountain's height,
Had been a fair enchanting sight.
'Twas one of those ambrosial eves
A day of storm so often leaves
At its calm setting—when the West
Opens her golden bowers of rest,
And a moist radiance from the skies
Shoots trembling down, as from the eyes
Of some meek penitent, whose last,
Bright hours atone for dark ones past,
And whose sweet tears, o'er wrong forgiv'n,
Shine, as they fall, with light from heav'n!

'Twas stillness all—the winds that late
Had rush'd through KERMAN'S almond groves,
And shaken from her bow'rs of date
That cooling feast the traveller loves,[2]
Now, lull'd to languor, scarcely curl
The Green Sea wave, whose waters gleam
Limpid, as if her mines of pearl
Were melted all to form the stream:
And her fair islets, small and bright,
With their green shores reflected there,
Look like those PERI isles of light,
That hang by spell-work in the air.

But vainly did those glories burst
On HINDA'S dazzled eyes, when first
The bandage from her brow was taken,
And, pale and aw'd as those who waken
In their dark tombs—when, scowling near,
The Searchers of the Grave[3] appear,—

[1] "Blossoms of the sorrowful Nyctanthes give a durable colour to silk."—*Remarks on the Husbandry of Bengal*, p. 200. Nilica is one of the Indian names of this flower.—*Sir W. Jones.* The Persians call it Gul.—*Carreri.*

[2] "In parts of Kerman, whatever dates are shaken from the trees by the wind they do not touch, but leave them for those who have not any, or for travellers."—*Ebn Haukal.*

[3] "The two terrible angels, Monkir and Nakir, who are called "the Searchers of the Grave" in the "Creed of the orthodox Mahometans" given by Ockley, vol. ii.

She shudd'ring turn'd to read her fate
In the fierce eyes that flash'd around;
And saw those towers all desolate,
That o'er her head terrific frown'd,
As if defying ev'n the smile
Of that soft heav'n to gild their pile.
In vain with mingled hope and fear,
She looks for him whose voice so dear
Had come, like music, to her ear —
Strange, mocking dream! again 'tis fled.
And oh, the shoots, the pangs of dread
That through her inmost bosom run,
When voices from without proclaim
"HAFED, the Chief" — and, one by one,
The warriors shout that fearful name!
He comes — the rock resounds his tread —
How shall she dare to lift her head,
Or meet those eyes whose scorching glare
Not YEMEN's boldest sons can bear?
In whose red beam, the Moslem tells,
Such rank and deadly lustre dwells,
As in those hellish fires that light
The mandrake's charnel leaves at night.[1]
How shall she bear that voice's tone,
At whose loud battle-cry alone
Whole squadrons oft in panic ran,
Scatter'd like some vast caravan,
When, stretch'd at evening round the well,
They hear the thirsting tiger's yell.

Breathless she stands, with eyes cast down,
Shrinking beneath the fiery frown,
Which, fancy tells her, from that brow
Is flashing o'er her fiercely now:
And shudd'ring as she hears the tread
Of his retiring warrior band. —
Never was pause so full of dread;
Till HAFED with a trembling hand
Took hers, and, leaning o'er her, said,
"HINDA;" — that word was all he spoke,
And 'twas enough — the shriek that broke
From her full bosom, told the rest. —
Panting with terror, joy, surprise,
The maid but lifts her wond'ring eyes,
To hide them on her Gheber's breast!
'Tis he, 'tis he — the man of blood,
The fellest of the Fire-fiend's brood,
HAFED, the demon of the fight,
Whose voice unnerves, whose glances blight, —
Is her own loved Gheber, mild
And glorious as when first he smil'd
In her lone tow'r, and left such beams
Of his pure eye to light her dreams,
That she believ'd her bower had giv'n
Rest to some wanderer from heav'n!

Moments there are, and this was one
Snatch'd like a minute's gleam of sun
Amid the black Simoom's eclipse —
Or, like those verdant spots that bloom
Around the crater's burning lips,
Sweet'ning the very edge of doom!
The past — the future — all that Fate
Can bring of dark or desperate
Around such hours, but makes them cast
Intenser radiance while they last!

Ev'n he, this youth — though dimm'd and gone
Each star of Hope that cheer'd him on —
His glories lost — his cause betray'd —
IRAN, his dear-lov'd country, made
A land of carcasses and slaves,
One dreary waste of chains and graves! —
Himself but ling'ring, dead at heart,
To see the last, long struggling breath
Of Liberty's great soul depart,
Then lay him down and share her death —
Ev'n he, so sunk in wretchedness,
With doom still darker gath'ring o'er him,
Yet, in this moment's pure caress,
In the mild eyes that shone before him,
Beaming that blest assurance, worth
All other transports known on earth,
That he was lov'd — well, warmly lov'd —
Oh! in this precious hour he prov'd
How deep, how thorough-felt the glow
Of rapture, kindling out of woe; —
How exquisite one single drop
Of bliss, thus sparkling to the top
Of mis'ry's cup — how keenly quaff'd,
Though death must follow on the draught!

She, too, while gazing on those eyes
That sink into her soul so deep,
Forgets all fears, all miseries,
Or feels them like the wretch in sleep,
Whom fancy cheats into a smile,
Who dreams of joy, and sobs the while!
The mighty Ruins where they stood,
Upon the mount's high, rocky verge,
Lay open tow'rds the ocean flood,
Where lightly o'er the illumin'd surge
Many a fair bark that, all the day,
Had lurk'd in shelt'ring creek or bay,
Now bounded on, and gave their sails,
Yet dripping, to the ev'ning gales;
Like eagles, when the storm is done,
Spreading their wet wings in the sun.
The beauteous clouds, though daylight Star
Had sunk behind the hills of LAR,

[1] "The Arabians call the mandrake 'the Devil's candle,' on account of its shining appearance in the night." — *Richardson.*

Were still with ling'ring glories bright, —
As if, to grace the gorgeous West,
The Spirit of departing Light
That eve had left his sunny vest
Behind him, ere he wing'd his flight.
Never was scene so form'd for love!
Beneath them waves of crystal move
In silent swell — Heav'n glows above,
And their pure hearts, to transport giv'n,
Swell like the wave, and glow like Heav'n.

But ah! too soon that dream is past —
Again, again her fear returns; —
Night, dreadful night, is gath'ring fast,
More faintly the horizon burns,
And every rosy tint that lay
On the smooth sea hath died away.
Hastily to the dark'ning skies
A glance she casts — then wildly cries
"*At night*, he said — and, look, 'tis near —
"Fly, fly — if yet thou lov'st me, fly —
Soon will his murd'rous band be here,
"And I shall see thee bleed and die. —
Hush! heard'st thou not the tramp of men
Sounding from yonder fearful glen? —
Perhaps ev'n now they climb the wood —
"Fly, fly — though still the West is bright,
"He'll come — oh! yes — he wants thy blood —
"I know him — he'll not wait for night!"

In terrors ev'n to agony
She clings around the wond'ring Chief; —
"Alas, poor wilder'd maid! to me
"Thou ow'st this raving trance of grief.
"Lost as I am, nought ever grew
"Beneath my shade but perish'd too —
"My doom is like the Dead Sea air,
"And nothing lives that enters there!
"Why were our barks together driv'n
"Beneath this morning's furious heav'n?
"Why, when I saw the prize that chance
"Had thrown into my desp'rate arms, —
"When, casting but a single glance
"Upon thy pale and prostrate charms,
"I vow'd (though watching viewless o'er
"Thy safety through that hour's alarms)
"To meet the' unmanning sight no more —
"Why have I broke that heart-wrung vow?
"Why weakly, madly met thee now? —
"Start not — that noise is but the shock
"Of torrents through yon valley hurl'd —
"Dread nothing here — upon this rock
"We stand above the jarring world,
"Alike beyond its hope — its dread —
"In gloomy safety, like the Dead!
"Or, could ev'n earth and hell unite
"In league to storm this Sacred Height,
"Fear nothing thou — myself, to-night,
"And each o'erlooking star that dwells
"Near God will be thy sentinels; —
"And, ere to-morrow's dawn shall glow,
"Back to thy sire ——"
"To-morrow! — no —"
The maiden scream'd — "thou'lt never see
"To-morrow's sun — death, death will be
"The night-cry through each reeking tower,
"Unless we fly, ay, fly this hour!
"Thou art betray'd — some wretch who knew
"That dreadful glen's mysterious clew —
"Nay, doubt not — by yon stars, 'tis true —
"Hath sold thee to my vengeful sire;
"This morning, with that smile so dire
"He wears in joy, he told me all,
"And stamp'd in triumph through our hall,
"As though thy heart already beat
"Its last life-throb beneath his feet!
"Good Heav'n, how little dream'd I then
"His victim was my own lov'd youth! —
"Fly — send — let some one watch the glen —
"By all my hopes of heav'n 'tis truth!"

Oh! colder than the wind that freezes
Founts, that but now in sunshine play'd,
Is that congealing pang which seizes
The trusting bosom, when betray'd.
He felt it — deeply felt — and stood,
As if the tale had froz'n his blood,
So maz'd and motionless was he; —
Like one whom sudden spells enchant,
Or some mute, marble habitant
Of the still Halls of ISHMONIE![1]

But soon the painful chill was o'er,
And his great soul, herself once more,
Look'd from his brow in all the rays
Of her best, happiest, grandest days.
Never, in moment most elate,
Did that high spirit loftier rise; —
While bright, serene, determinate,
His looks are lifted to the skies,
As if the signal lights of Fate
Were shining in those awful eyes!
'Tis come — his hour of martyrdom
In IRAN's sacred cause is come;
And, though his life hath pass'd away,
Like lightning on a stormy day,

[1] For an account of Ishmonie, the petrified city in Upper Egypt, where it is said there are many statues of men, women, &c. to be seen to this day, see *Perry's View of the Levant*.

Yet shall his death-hour leave a track
Of glory, permanent and bright,
To which the brave of after-times,
The suff'ring brave, shall long look back
With proud regret,—and by its light
Which through the hours of slav'ry's night
For vengeance on the oppressor's crimes,
This rock, his monument aloft,
Shall speak the tale to many an age;
And hither bards and heroes oft
Shall come in secret pilgrimage,
And bring their warrior sons, and tell
The wond'ring boys where Hafed fell;
And swear them on those lone remains
Of their lost country's ancient fanes,
Never—while breath of life shall live
Within them—never to forgive
The accursed race, whose ruthless chain
Hath left on Iran's neck a stain
Blood, blood alone can cleanse again!

Such are the swelling thoughts that now
Enthrone themselves on Hafed's brow;
And ne'er did Saint of Issa's[1] gaze
On the red wreath, for martyrs twin'd,
More proudly than the youth surveys
That pile, which through the glo
Half lighted by the altar's fire,
Glimmers—his destin'd fune
Heap'd by his own his cr
Of ev'ry wood o
There, by the Fire-G
Ready to fold in ra
The few still left of those
To perish there, when hope
The few, to whom that couch
Which rescues them from bonds
Is sweet and welcome as the bed
For their own infant Prophet spread
When pitying Heav'n to roses turn'd
The death-flames that beneath him bur

With watchfulness the maid attends
His rapid glance, where'er it bends—
Why shoot his eyes such awful beams?
What plans he now? what thinks or dreams?
Alas! why stands he musing here,
When ev'ry moment teems with fear?
"Hafed, my own beloved Lord,"
She kneeling cries—"first, last ador'd!

"If in that soul thou'
"Half what thy
"Here, on my kn
"To any but
"I pray thee,
"Now, now
"Oh haste
"Can
"East—
"So
"Go
"
"

[1] Jesus.

[2] The Ghebers say that when Abraham, their great Prophet, was thrown into the fire by order of Nimrod, the flame turned instantly into "a bed of roses, where the child sweetly reposed."—*Tavernier*.

[3] Of their other Prophet, Zoroaster, there is a story told

'he' unnerving thrill,
linger'd still
nd tone,
g mind
ray'd,
us grow

e said —
re,
r, —

And each determin'd brow declares
His faithful Chieftains well know theirs.

But minutes speed — night gems the skies —
And oh, how soon, ye blessed eyes,
That look from heaven, ye may behold
Sights that will turn your star-fires cold!
Breathless with awe, impatience, hope,
The maiden sees the veteran group
Her litter silently prepare,
And lay it at her trembling feet; —
And now the youth, with gentle care,
Hath plac'd her in the shelter'd seat,
And press'd her hand — that lingering press
Of hands, that for the last time sever,
Of hearts, whose pulse of happiness,
When that hold breaks, is dead for ever.
And yet to *her* this sad caress
Gives hope — so fondly hope can err!
'Twas joy, she thought, joy's mute excess —
Their happy flight's dear harbinger;
'Twas warmth — assurance — tenderness —
'Twas any thing but leaving her.

Haste, haste!" she cried, "the clouds grow dark,
But still, ere night, we'll reach the bark;
to-morrow's dawn — oh bliss!
pon the sun-b ight deep,
remember this,
nish'd dream of sleep,
— be answers not —
does she go alone?
a dismal spot,
's since, his voice's tone
e her fears and ills,
gel Israfil's,[2]
eaf on Eden's tree
to his minstrelsy —
— oh, now, he is not nigh, —
ed! my Hafed! — if it be
will, thy doom this night to die,
et me but stay to die with thee,
nd I will bless thy loved name,
Till the last life-breath leave this frame.
"Oh! let our lips, our cheeks be laid
"But near each other while they fade;
"Let us but mix our parting breaths,
"And I can die ten thousand deaths!
"You too, who hurry me away
"So cruelly, one moment stay —
"Oh! stay — one moment is not much —

flying tassels of long white hair, taken out of the tails of wild oxen, that are to be found in some places of the Indies." — *Thevenot.*

[2] "The angel Israfil, who has the most melodious voice of God's creatures." — *Sale.*

"He yet may come — for *him* I pray —
"HAFED! dear HAFED!" — all the way
In wild lamentings, that would touch
A heart of stone, she shriek'd his name
To the dark woods — no HAFED came: —
No — hapless pair — you've look'd your last: —
Your hearts should both have broken then:
The dream is o'er — your doom is cast —
You'll never meet on earth again!

Alas for him, who hears her cries!
Still half-way down the steep he stands,
Watching with fix'd and feverish eyes
The glimmer of those burning brands,
That down the rocks, with mournful ray,
Light all he loves on earth away!
Hopeless as they who, far at sea,
By the cold moon have just consign'd
The corse of one, lov'd tenderly,
To the bleak flood they leave behind;
And on the deck still ling'ring stay,
And long look back, with sad delay,
To watch the moonlight on the wave,
That ripples o'er that cheerless grave.

But see — he starts — what heard he then?
That dreadful shout! — across the glen
From the land-side it comes, and loud
Rings through the chasm; as if the crowd
Of fearful things, that haunt that dell,
Its Gholes and Dives and shapes of hell,
Had all in one dread howl broke out,
So loud, so terrible that shout!
"They come — the Moslems come!" — he cries,
His proud soul mounting to his eyes, —
"Now, Spirits of the Brave, who roam
"Enfranchis'd through yon starry dome,
"Rejoice — for souls of kindred fire
"Are on the wing to join your choir!"
He said — and, light as bridegrooms bound
To their young loves, reclimb'd the steep
And gain'd the Shrine — his Chiefs stood round —
Their swords, as with instinctive leap,
Together, at that cry accurst,
Had from their sheaths, like sunbeams, burst.
And hark! — again — again it rings;
Near and more near its echoings
Peal through the chasm — oh! who that then
Had seen those list'ning warrior-men,
With their swords grasp'd, their eyes of flame
Turn'd on their Chief — could doubt the shame,
The' indignant shame with which they thrill
To hear those shouts, and yet stand still?

He read their thoughts — they were his own —
"What! while our arms can wield these blades,
"Shall we die tamely? die alone?
"Without one victim to our shades,
"One Moslem heart, where, buried deep,
"The sabre from its toil may sleep?
"No — God of IRAN's burning skies!
"Thou scorn'st the' inglorious sacrifice.
"No — though of all earth's hope bereft,
"Life, swords, and vengeance still are left.
"We'll make yon valley's reeking caves
"Live in the awe-struck minds of men,
"Till tyrants shudder, when their slaves
"Tell of the Gheber's bloody glen.
"Follow, brave hearts! — this pile remains
"Our refuge still from life and chains;
"But his the best, the holiest bed,
"Who sinks entomb'd in Moslem dead!"

Down the precipitous rocks they sprung,
While vigour, more than human, strung
Each arm and heart. — The' exulting foe
Still through the dark defiles below,
Track'd by his torches' lurid fire,
Wound slow, as through GOLCONDA's vale [1]
The mighty serpent, in his ire,
Glides on with glitt'ring, deadly trail.
No torch the Ghebers need — so well
They know each myst'ry of the dell,
So oft have, in their wanderings,
Cross'd the wild race that round them dwell,
The very tigers from their delves
Look out, and let them pass, as things
Untam'd and fearless like themselves!

There was a deep ravine, that lay
Yet darkling in the Moslem's way;
Fit spot to make invaders rue
The many fall'n before the few.
The torrents from that morning's sky
Had fill'd the narrow chasm breast-high,
And, on each side, aloft and wild,
Huge cliffs and toppling crags were pil'd, —
The guards with which young Freedom lines
The pathways to her mountain-shrines.
Here, at this pass, the scanty band
Of IRAN's last avengers stand;
Here wait, in silence like the dead,
And listen for the Moslem's tread
So anxiously, the carrion-bird
Above them flaps his wing unheard!

They come — that plunge into the water
Gives signal for the work of slaughter.
Now, Ghebers, now — if e'er your blades
Had point or prowess, prove them now —
Woe to the file that foremost wades!
They come — a falchion greets each brow,

[1] See Hoole upon the Story of Sinbad.

And, as they tumble, trunk on trunk,
Beneath the gory waters sunk,
Still o'er their drowning bodies press
New victims quick and numberless;
Till scarce an arm in HAFED's band,
So fierce their toil, hath power to stir,
But listless from each crimson hand
The sword hangs, clogg'd with massacre.
Never was horde of tyrants met
With bloodier welcome — never yet
To patriot vengeance hath the sword
More terrible libations pour'd!

All up the dreary, long ravine,
By the red, murky glimmer seen
Of half-quench'd brands, that o'er the flood
Lie scatter'd round and burn in blood,
What ruin glares! what carnage swims!
Heads, blazing turbans, quiv'ring limbs,
Lost swords that, dropp'd from many a hand,
In that thick pool of slaughter stand; —
Wretches who wading, half on fire
From the toss'd brands that round them fly,
'Twixt flood and flame in shrieks expire; —
And some who, grasp'd by those that die,
Sink woundless with them, smother'd o'er
In their dead brethren's gushing gore!

But vainly hundreds, thousands bleed,
Still hundreds, thousands more succeed;
Countless tow'rds some flame at night
The North's dark insects wing their flight,
And quench or perish in its light,
To this terrific spot they pour —
Till, bridg'd with Moslem bodies o'er,
It bears aloft their slipp'ry tread,
And o'er the dying and the dead,
Tremendous causeway! on they pass. —
Then, hapless Ghebers, then, alas,
What hope was left for you? for you,
Whose yet warm pile of sacrifice
Is smoking in their vengeful eyes; —
Whose swords how keen, how fierce they knew,
And burn with shame to find how few?

Crush'd down by that vast multitude,
Some found their graves where first they stood;
While some with hardier struggle died,
And still fought on by HAFED's side,
Who, fronting to the foe, trod back
Tow'rds the high towers his gory track;

And, as a lion swept away
By sudden swell of JORDAN's pride
From the wild covert where he lay, [1]
Long battles with the' o'erwhelming tide,
So fought he back with fierce delay,
And kept both foes and fate at bay.

But whither now? their track is lost,
Their prey escap'd — guide, torches gone —
By torrent-beds and labyrinths crost,
The scatter'd crowd rush blindly on —
"Curse on those tardy lights that wind,"
They panting cry, "so far behind;
"Oh for a bloodhound's precious scent,
"To track the way the Gheber went!"
Vain wish — confusedly along
They rush, more desp'rate as more wrong:
Till, wilder'd by the far-off lights,
Yet glitt'ring up those gloomy heights,
Their footing, maz'd and lost, they miss,
And down the darkling precipice
Are dash'd into the deep abyss;
Or midway hang, impal'd on rocks,
A banquet, yet alive, for flocks
Of rav'ning vultures, — while the dell
Re-echoes with each horrible yell.

Those sounds — the last, to vengeance dear,
That e'er shall ring in HAFED's ear, —
Now reach'd him, as aloft, alone,
Upon the steep way breathless thrown,
He lay beside his reeking blade,
Resign'd, as if life's task were o'er,
Its last blood-offering amply paid,
And IRAN's self could claim no more.
One only thought, one ling'ring beam
Now broke across his dizzy dream
Of pain and weariness — 'twas she,
His heart's pure planet, shining yet
Above the waste of memory,
When all life's other lights were set.
And never to his mind before
Her image such enchantment wore.
It seem'd as if each thought that stain'd,
Each fear that chill'd their loves was past,
And not one cloud of earth remain'd
Between him and her radiance cast; —
As if to charms, before so bright,
New grace from other worlds was giv'n,
And his soul saw her by the light
Now breaking o'er itself from heav'n!

[1] "In this thicket upon the banks of the Jordan several sorts of wild beasts are wont to harbour themselves, whose being washed out of the covert by the overflowings of the river, gave occasion to that allusion of Jeremiah, *he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan.*" — *Maundrell's Aleppo.*

A voice spoke near him — 'twas the tone
Of a lov'd friend, the only one
Of all his warriors, left with life
From that short night's tremendous strife. —
" And must we then, my Chief, die here?
" Foes round us, and the Shrine so near! "
These words have rous'd the last remains
Of life within him — " what! not yet
" Beyond the reach of Moslem chains! "
The thought could make ev'n Death forget
His icy bondage — with a bound
He springs, all bleeding, from the ground,
And grasps his comrade's arm, now grown
Ev'n feebler, heavier than his own,
And up the painful pathway leads,
Death gaining on each step he treads.
Speed them, thou God, who heardst their vow!
They mount — they bleed — oh save them now —
The crags are red they've clamber'd o'er,
The rock-weed's dripping with their gore; —
Thy blade too, HAFED, false at length,
Now breaks beneath thy tott'ring strength!
Haste, haste — the voices of the Foe
Come near and nearer from below —
One effort more — thank Heav'n! 'tis past,
They've gain'd the topmost steep at last.
And now they touch the temple's walls,
Now HAFED sees the Fire divine —
When, lo! — his weak, worn comrade falls
Dead on the threshold of the shrine.
" Alas, brave soul, too quickly fled!
" And must I leave thee with'ring here,
" The sport of every ruffian's tread,
" The mark for every coward's spear?
" No, by yon altar's sacred beams! "
He cries, and, with a strength that seems
Not of this world, uplifts the frame
Of the fall'n Chief, and tow'rds the flame
Bears him along; — with death-damp hand
The corpse upon the pyre he lays,
Then lights the consecrated brand,
And fires the pile, whose sudden blaze
Like lightning bursts o'er OMAN's Sea. —
" Now, Freedom's God! I come to Thee, "
The youth exclaims, and with a smile
Of triumph vaulting on the pile,
In that last effort, ere the fires
Have harm'd one glorious limb, expires!

What shriek was that on OMAN's tide?
It came from yonder drifting bark,
That just hath caught upon her side
The death-light — and again is dark.
It is the boat — ah, why delay'd? —
That bears the wretched Moslem maid;
Confided to the watchful care
Of a small veteran band, with whom
Their gen'rous Chieftain would not share
The secret of his final doom,
But hop'd when HINDA, safe and free,
Was render'd to her father's eyes,
Their pardon, full and prompt, would be
The ransom of so dear a prize. —
Unconscious, thus, of HAFED's fate,
And proud to guard their beauteous freight,
Scarce had they clear'd the surfy waves
That foam around those frightful caves,
When the curst war-whoops, known so well,
Came echoing from the distant dell —
Sudden each oar, upheld and still,
Hung dripping o'er the vessel's side,
And, driving at the current's will,
They rock'd along the whisp'ring tide;
While every eye, in mute dismay,
Was tow'rd that fatal mountain turn'd,
Where the dim altar's quiv'ring ray
As yet all lone and tranquil burn'd.

Oh! 'tis not HINDA, in the pow'r
Of Fancy's most terrific touch
To paint thy pangs in that dread hour —
Thy silent agony — 'twas such
As those who feel could paint too well,
But none e'er felt and liv'd to tell!
'Twas not alone the dreary state
Of a lorn spirit, crush'd by fate,
When, though no more remains to dread,
The panic chill will not depart; —
When, though the inmate Hope be dead,
Her ghost still haunts the mould'ring heart;
No — pleasures, hopes, affections gone,
The wretch may bear, and yet live on,
Like things, within the cold rock found
Alive, when all's congeal'd around.
But there's a blank repose in this,
A calm stagnation, that were bliss
To the keen, burning, harrowing pain,
Now felt through all thy breast and brain; —
That spasm of terror, mute, intense,
That breathless, agonis'd suspense,
From whose hot throb, whose deadly aching,
The heart hath no relief but breaking!

Calm is the wave — heav'n's brilliant lights
Reflected dance beneath the prow; —
Time was when, on such lovely nights,
She who is there, so desolate now,
Could sit all cheerful, though alone,
And ask no happier joy than seeing
That star-light o'er the waters thrown —
No joy but that, to make her blest,

And the fresh, buoyant sense of Being,
Which bounds in youth's yet careless breast, —
Itself a star, not borrowing light,
But in its own glad essence bright.
How different now! — but, hark, again
The yell of havoc rings — brave men!
In vain, with beating hearts, ye stand
On the bark's edge — in vain each hand
Half draws the falchion from its sheath;
All's o'er — in rust your blades may lie: —
He, at whose word they've scatter'd death,
Ev'n now, this night, himself must die!
Well may ye look to yon dim tower,
And ask, and wond'ring guess what means
The battle-cry at this dead hour —
Ah! she could tell you — she, who leans
Unheeded there, pale, sunk, aghast,
With brow against the dew-cold mast; —
Too well she knows — her more than life,
Her soul's first idol and its last,
Lies bleeding in that murd'rous strife.

But see — what moves upon the height?
Some signal! — 'tis a torch's light.
What bodes its solitary glare?
In gasping silence tow'rd the Shrine
All eyes are turn'd — thine, HINDA, thine
Fix their last fading life-beams there.
'Twas but a moment — fierce and high
The death-pile blaz'd into the sky,
And far away, o'er rock and flood
Its melancholy radiance sent;
While HAFED, like a vision stood
Reveal'd before the burning pyre,
Tall, shadowy, like a Spirit of Fire
Shrin'd in its own grand element!
"'Tis he!" — the shudd'ring maid exclaims, —
But, while she speaks, he's seen no more;
High burst in air the funeral flames,
And IRAN's hopes and hers are o'er!

One wild, heart-broken shriek she gave;
Then sprung, as if to reach that blaze,
Where still she fix'd her dying gaze,
And, gazing, sunk into the wave, —
Deep, deep, — where never care or pain
Shall reach her innocent heart again!

Farewell — farewell to thee, ARABY's daughter!
(Thus warbled a PERI beneath the dark sea,)
No pearl ever lay, under OMAN's green water,
More pure in its shell than thy Spirit in thee.

Oh! fair as the sea-flower close to thee growing,
How light was thy heart till Love's witchery came,
Like the wind of the south[1] o'er a summer lute blowing,
And hush'd all its music, and wither'd its frame!

But long, upon ARABY's green sunny highlands,
Shall maids and their lovers remember the doom
Of her, who lies sleeping among the Pearl Islands,
With nought but the sea-star[2] to light up her tomb.

And still, when the merry date-season is burning,[3]
And calls to the palm-groves the young and the old,
The happiest there, from their pastime returning
At sunset, will weep when thy story is told.

The young village-maid, when with flow'rs she dresses
Her dark flowing hair for some festival day,
Will think of thy fate till, neglecting her tresses,
She mournfully turns from the mirror away.

Nor shall IRAN, belov'd of her Hero! forget thee —
Though tyrants watch over her tears as they start,
Close, close by the side of that Hero she'll set thee,
Embalm'd in the innermost shrine of her heart.

Farewell — be it ours to embellish thy pillow
With ev'ry thing beauteous that grows in the deep;
Each flow'r of the rock and each gem of the billow
Shall sweeten thy bed and illumine thy sleep.

Around thee shall glisten the loveliest amber
That ever the sorrowing sea-bird has wept;[4]
With many a shell, in whose hollow-wreath'd chamber,
We, Peris of Ocean, by moonlight have slept.

We'll dive where the gardens of coral lie darkling,
And plant all the rosiest stems at thy head;
We'll seek where the sands of the Caspian[5] are sparkling,
And gather their gold to strew over thy bed.

[1] "This wind (the Samoor) so softens the strings of lutes, that they can never be tuned while it lasts." — *Stephen's Persia.*

[2] "One of the greatest curiosities found in the Persian Gulf is a fish which the English call Star-fish. It is circular, and at night very luminous, resembling the full moon surrounded by rays." — *Mirza Abu Taleb.*

[3] For a description of the merriment of the date-time, of their work, their dances, and their return home from the palm-groves at the end of autumn with the fruits. — See *Kempfer, Amœnitat. Exot.*

[4] Some naturalists have imagined that amber is a concretion of the tears of birds. — See *Trevoux, Chambers.*

[5] "The bay Kieselarke, which is otherwise called the Golden Bay, the sand whereof shines as fire." — *Struy.*

Farewell — farewell — until Pity's sweet fountain
Is lost in the hearts of the fair and the brave,
They'll weep for the Chieftain who died on that mountain,
They'll weep for the Maiden who sleeps in this wave.

THE singular placidity with which FADLADEEN had listened, during the latter part of this obnoxious story, surprised the Princess and FERAMORZ exceedingly; and even inclined towards him the hearts of these unsuspicious young persons, who little knew the source of a complacency so marvellous. The truth was, he had been organizing, for the last few days, a most notable plan of persecution against the poet, in consequence of some passages that had fallen from him on the second evening of recital, — which appeared to this worthy Chamberlain to contain language and principles, for which nothing short of the summary criticism of the Chabuk [1] would be advisable. It was his intention, therefore, immediately on their arrival at Cashmere, to give information to the King of Bucharia of the very dangerous sentiments of his minstrel; and if, unfortunately, that monarch did not act with suitable vigour on the occasion, (that is, if he did not give the Chabuk to FERAMORZ, and a place to FADLADEEN,) there would be an end, he feared, of all legitimate government in Bucharia. He could not help, however, auguring better both for himself and the cause of potentates in general; and it was the pleasure arising from these mingled anticipations that diffused such unusual satisfaction through his features, and made his eyes shine out like poppies of the desert, over the wide and lifeless wilderness of that countenance.

Having decided upon the Poet's chastisement in this manner, he thought it but humanity to spare him the minor tortures of criticism. Accordingly, when they assembled the following evening in the pavilion, and LALLA ROOKH was expecting to see all the beauties of her bard melt away, one by one, in the acidity of criticism, like pearls in the cup of the Egyptian queen, — he agreeably disappointed her, by merely saying, with an ironical smile, that the merits of such a poem deserved to be tried at a much higher tribunal; and then suddenly passed off into a panegyric, upon all Mussulman sovereigns, more particularly his august and Imperial master, Aurungzebe, — the wisest and best of the descendants of Timur — who, among other great things he had done for mankind, had given to him, FADLADEEN, the very profitable posts of Betel-carrier, and Taster of Sherbets to the Emperor, Chief Holder of the Girdle of Beautiful Forms [2], and Grand Nazir, or Chamberlain of the Haram.

They were now not far from that Forbidden River [3], beyond which no pure Hindoo can pass; and were reposing for a time in the rich valley of Hussun Abdaul, which had always been a favourite resting-place of the Emperors in their annual migrations to Cashmere. Here often had the Light of the Faith, Jehan-Guire, been known to wander with his beloved and beautiful Nourmahal; and here would LALLA ROOKH have been happy to remain for ever, giving up the throne of Bucharia and the world, for FERAMORZ and love in this sweet lonely valley. But the time was now fast approaching when she must see him no longer, — or, what was still worse, behold him with eyes whose every look belonged to another; and there was a melancholy preciousness in these last moments, which made her heart cling to them as it would to life. During the latter part of the journey, indeed, she had sunk into a deep sadness, from which nothing but the presence of the young minstrel could awake her. Like those lamps in tombs, which only light up when the air is admitted, it was only at his approach that her eyes became smiling and animated. But here, in this dear valley, every moment appeared an age of pleasure; she saw him all day, and was, therefore, all day happy, — resembling, she often thought, that people of Zinge [4], who attribute the

[1] "The application of whips or rods." — *Dubois.*

[2] Kempfer mentions such an officer among the attendants of the King of Persia, and calls him "formæ corporis estimator." His business was, at stated periods, to measure the ladies of the Haram by a sort of regulation-girdle, whose limits it was not thought graceful to exceed. If any of them outgrew this standard of shape, they were reduced by abstinence till they came within proper bounds.

[3] The Attock.

"Akbar on his way ordered a fort to be built upon the Nilab, which he called Attock, which means in the Indian language Forbidden; for, by the superstition of the Hindoos, it was held unlawful to cross that river."—*Dow*'s Hindostan.

[4] "The inhabitants of this country (Zinge) are never afflicted with sadness or melancholy; on this subject the Sheikh *Abu-al-Kheir-Azhari* has the following distich: —

"'Who is the man without care or sorrow, (tell) that I may rub my hand to him.

"'(Behold) the Zinglans, without care or sorrow, frolicksome with tipsiness and mirth.'

"The philosophers have discovered that the cause of this cheerfulness proceeds from the influence of the star Soheil, or Canopus, which rises over them every night."—*Extract from a Geographical Persian Manuscript called Heft Aklim, or the Seven Climates, translated by W. Ouseley, Esq.*

unfading cheerfulness they enjoy to one genial star that rises nightly over their heads. [1]

The whole party, indeed, seemed in their liveliest mood during the few days they passed in this delightful solitude. The young attendants of the Princess, who were here allowed a much freer range than they could safely be indulged with in a less sequestered place, ran wild among the gardens and bounded through the meadows lightly as young roes over the aromatic plains of Tibet. While FADLADEEN, in addition to the spiritual comfort derived by him from a pilgrimage to the tomb of the saint from whom the valley is named, had also opportunities of indulging, in a small way, his taste for victims, by putting to death some hundreds of those unfortunate little lizards[2], which all pious Mussulmans make it a point to kill;—taking for granted, that the manner in which the creature hangs its head is meant as a mimicry of the attitude in which the Faithful say their prayers.

About two miles from Hussun Abdaul were those Royal Gardens[3], which had grown beautiful under the care of so many lovely eyes, and were beautiful still, though those eyes could see them no longer. This place, with its flowers and its holy silence, interrupted only by the dipping of the wings of birds in its marble basins filled with the pure water of those hills, was to LALLA ROOKH all that her heart could fancy of fragrance, coolness, and almost heavenly tranquillity. As the Prophet said of Damascus, "it was too delicious[4];"—and here, in listening to the sweet voice of FERAMORZ, or reading in his eyes what yet he never dared to tell her, the most exquisite moments of her whole life were passed. One evening, when they had been talking of the Sultana Nourmahal, the Light of the Haram[5], who had so often wandered among these flowers, and fed with her own hands, in those marble basins, the small shining fishes of which she was so fond[6], the youth, in order to delay the moment of separation, proposed to recite a short story, or rather rhapsody, of which this adored Sultana was the heroine. It related, he said, to the reconcilement of a sort of lovers' quarrel which took place between her and the Emperor during a Feast of Roses at Cashmere; and would remind the Princess of that difference between Haroun-al-Raschid and his fair mistress Marida[7], which was so happily made up by the soft strains of the musician, Moussali. As the story was chiefly to be told in song, and FERAMORZ had unluckily forgotten his own lute in the valley, he borrowed the vina of LALLA ROOKH's little Persian slave, and thus began:—

WHO has not heard of the Vale of CASHMERE,
With its roses the brightest that earth ever gave,[8]
Its temples, and grottos, and fountains as clear
As the love-lighted eyes that hang over their wave?

Oh! to see it at sunset,—when warm o'er the Lake
Its splendour at parting a summer eve throws,
Like a bride, full of blushes, when ling'ring to take
A last look of her mirror at night ere she goes!—
When the shrines through the foliage are gleaming half shown,
And each hallows the hour by some rites of its own.
Here the music of pray'r from a minaret swells,
Here the Magian his urn, full of perfume, is swinging,
And here, at the altar, a zone of sweet bells
Round the waist of some fair Indian dancer is ringing.[9]

[1] The star Soheil, or Canopus.

[2] "The lizard Stellio. The Arabs call it Hardun. The Turks kill it, for they imagine that by declining the head it mimics them when they say their prayers."—*Hasselquist.*

[3] For these particulars respecting Hussun Abdaul I am indebted to the very interesting Introduction of Mr. Elphinstone's work upon Caubul.

[4] "As you enter at that Bazar, without the gate of Damascus, you see the Green Mosque, so called because it hath a steeple faced with green glazed bricks, which render it very resplendent; it is covered at top with a pavilion of the same stuff. The Turks say this mosque was made in that place, because Mahomet being come so far, would not enter the town, saying it was too delicious."—*Thevenot.* This reminds one of the following pretty passage in Isaac Walton:—"When I sat last on this primrose bank, and looked down these meadows, I thought of them as Charles the Emperor did of the city of Florence, 'that they were too pleasant to be looked on, but only on holidays.'"

[5] Nourmahal signifies Light of the Haram. She was afterwards called Nourjehan, or the Light of the World.

[6] See note [5], p. 372.

[7] "Haroun Al Raschid, cinquième Khalife des Abassides, s'étant un jour brouillé, avec une de ses maitresses nommée Maridah, qu'il aimoit cependant jusqu'à l'excès, et cette mésintelligence ayant déjà durée quelque tems, commença à s'ennuyer. Giafar Barmaki, son favori, qui s'en appercût, commanda à Abbas ben Ahnaf, excellent poëte de ce tems là, de composer quelques vers sur le sujet de cette brouillerie. Ce poëte exécuta l'ordre de Giafar, qui fit chanter ces vers par Moussali en présence du Khalife, et ce prince fut tellement touché de la tendresse des vers du poëte, et de la douceur de la voix du musicien, qu'il alla aussi-tôt trouver Maridah, et fit sa paix avec elle."—*D'Herbelot.*

[8] "The rose of Kashmire for its brilliancy and delicacy of odour has long been proverbial in the East."—*Forster.*

[9] "Tied round her waist the zone of bells, that sounded with ravishing melody."—*Song of Jayadeva.*

Or to see it by moonlight, — when mellowly shines
The light o'er its palaces, gardens, and shrines;
When the water-falls gleam, like a quick fall of stars,
And the nightingale's hymn from the Isle of Chenars
Is broken by laughs and light echoes of feet
From the cool, shining walks where the young people meet. —
Or at morn, when the magic of daylight awakes
A new wonder each minute, as slowly it breaks,
Hills, cupolas, fountains, call'd forth every one
Out of darkness, as if but just born of the Sun.
When the Spirit of Fragrance is up with the day,
From his Haram of night-flowers stealing away;
And the wind, full of wantonness, woos like a lover
The young aspen-trees[1], till they tremble all over.
When the East is as warm as the light of first hopes,
And Day, with his banner of radiance unfurl'd,
Shines in through the mountainous portal[2] that opes,
Sublime, from that Valley of bliss to the world!

But never yet, by night or day,
In dew of spring or summer's ray,
Did the sweet Valley shine so gay
As now it shines — all love and light,
Visions by day and feasts by night!
A happier smile illumes each brow,
With quicker spread each heart uncloses,
And all is ecstasy, — for now
The Valley holds its Feast of Roses;[3]
The joyous Time, when pleasures pour
Profusely round and, in their shower,
Hearts open, like the Season's Rose, —
The Flow'ret of a hundred leaves,[4]
Expanding while the dew-fall flows,
And every leaf its balm receives.

'Twas when the hour of evening came
Upon the Lake, serene and cool,
When Day had hid his sultry flame
Behind the palms of Baramoule,[5]
When maids began to lift their heads,
Refresh'd from their embroider'd beds,
Where they had slept the sun away,
And wak'd to moonlight and to play.

All were abroad — the busiest hive
On Bela's[6] hills is less alive,
When saffron-beds are full in flow'r,
Than look'd the Valley in that hour.
A thousand restless torches play'd
Through every grove and island shade;
A thousand sparkling lamps were set
On every dome and minaret;
And fields and pathways, far and near,
Were lighted by a blaze so clear,
That you could see, in wand'ring round,
The smallest rose-leaf on the ground.
Yet did the maids and matrons leave
Their veils at home, that brilliant eve;
And there were glancing eyes about,
And cheeks, that would not dare shine out
In open day, but thought they might
Look lovely then, because 'twas night.
And all were free, and wandering,
And all exclaim'd to all they met,
That never did the summer bring
So gay a Feast of Roses yet; —
The moon had never shed a light
So clear as that which bless'd them there;
The roses ne'er shone half so bright,
Nor they themselves look'd half so fair.

And what a wilderness of flow'rs!
It seem'd as though from all the bow'rs
And fairest fields of all the year,
The mingled spoil were scatter'd here.
The Lake, too, like a garden breathes,
With the rich buds that o'er it lie, —
As if a shower of fairy wreaths
Had fall'n upon it from the sky!
And then the sounds of joy, — the beat
Of tabors and of dancing feet; —
The minaret-crier's chaunt of glee
Sung from his lighted gallery,[7]
And answer'd by a ziraleet
From neighbouring Haram, wild and sweet; —
The merry laughter, echoing
From gardens, where the silken swing[8]
Wafts some delighted girl above
The top leaves of the orange-grove;

[1] "The little isles in the Lake of Cachemire are set with arbours and large-leaved aspen-trees, slender and tall." — *Bernier.*

[2] "The Tuckt Suliman, the name bestowed by the Mahommetans on this hill, forms one side of a grand portal to the Lake." — *Forster.*

[3] "The Feast of Roses continues the whole time of their remaining in bloom." — See *Pietro de la Valle.*

[4] "Gul sad berk, the Rose of a hundred leaves. I believe a particular species." — *Ouseley.*

[5] *Bernier.*

[6] A place mentioned in the Toozek Jehangeery, or Memoirs of Jehan-Guire, where there is an account of the beds of saffron-flowers about Cashmere.

[7] "It is the custom among the women to employ the Maazeen to chaunt from the gallery of the nearest minaret, which on that occasion is illuminated, and the women assembled at the house respond at intervals with a ziraleet or joyous chorus." — *Russel.*

[8] "The swing is a favourite pastime in the East, as promoting a circulation of air, extremely refreshing in those sultry climates." — *Richardson.*

"The swings are adorned with festoons. This pastime is accompanied with music of voices and of instruments, hired by the masters of the swings." — *Thevenot.*

Or, from those infant groups at play
Among the tents[1] that line the way,
Flinging, unaw'd by slave or mother,
Handfuls of roses at each other.—
Then, the sounds from the Lake,—the low whisp'ring in boats,
As they shoot through the moonlight;—the dipping of oars,
And the wild, airy warbling that ev'ry where floats,
Through the groves, round the islands, as if all the shores,
Like those of KATHAY, utter'd music, and gave
An answer in song to the kiss of each wave.[2]
But the gentlest of all are those sounds, full of feeling,
That soft from the lute of some lover are stealing,—
Some lover, who knows all the heart-touching power
Of a lute and a sigh in this magical hour.
Oh! best of delights as it ev'ry where is
To be near the lov'd *One*,—what a rapture is his
Who in moonlight and music thus sweetly may glide
O'er the Lake of CASHMERE, with that *One* by his side!
If woman can make the worst wilderness dear,
Think, think what a Heav'n she must make of CASHMERE!

So felt the magnificent Son of ACBAR,[3]
When from pow'r and pomp and the trophies of war
He flew to that Valley, forgetting them all
With the Light of the HARAM, his young NOURMAHAL.
When free and uncrown'd as the Conqueror rov'd
By the banks of that lake, with his only belov'd,
He saw, in the wreaths she would playfully snatch
From the hedges, a glory his crown could not match,
And preferr'd in his heart the least ringlet that curl'd
Down her exquisite neck to the throne of the world.

There's a beauty, for ever unchangingly bright,
Like the long, sunny lapse of a summer-day's light,
Shining on, shining on, by no shadow made tender,
Till Love falls asleep in its sameness of splendour.
This *was* not the beauty—oh, nothing like this,
That to young NOURMAHAL gave such magic of bliss!
But that loveliness, ever in motion, which plays
Like the light upon autumn's soft shadowy days,
Now here and now there, giving warmth as it flies
From the lip to the cheek, from the cheek to the eyes;
Now melting in mist and now breaking in gleams,
Like the glimpses a saint hath of Heav'n in his dreams.
When pensive, it seem'd as if that very grace,
That charm of all others, was born with her face!
And when angry,—for ev'n in the tranquillest climes
Light breezes will ruffle the blossoms sometimes—
The short, passing anger but seem'd to awaken
New beauty, like flow'rs that are sweetest when shaken.
If tenderness touch'd her, the dark of her eye
At once took a darker, a heav'nlier dye,
From the depth of whose shadow, like holy revealings
From innermost shrines, came the light of her feelings.
Then her mirth—oh! 'twas sportive as ever took wing
From the heart with a burst, like the wild-bird in spring;
Illum'd by a wit that would fascinate sages,
Yet playful as Peris just loos'd from their cages.[4]
While her laugh, full of life, without any control
But the sweet one of gracefulness, rung from her soul;
And where it most sparkled no glance could discover,
In lip, cheek, or eyes, for she brighten'd all over,—
Like any fair lake that the breeze is upon,
When it breaks into dimples and laughs in the sun.
Such, such were the peerless enchantments, that gave
NOURMAHAL the proud Lord of the East for her slave:

[1] "At the keeping of the Feast of Roses we beheld an infinite number of tents pitched, with such a crowd of men, women, boys, and girls, with music, dances," &c. &c.—*Herbert.*

[2] "An old commentator of the Chou-King says, the ancients having remarked that a current of water made some of the stones near its banks send forth a sound, they detached some of them, and being charmed with the delightful sound they emitted, constructed King or musical instruments of them."—*Grosier.*

This miraculous quality has been attributed also to the shore of Attica. "Hujus littus, ait Capella, concentum musicum illisis terræ undis reddere, quod propter tantam eruditionis vim puto dictum."—*Ludov. Vives in Augustin. de Civitat. Dei*, lib. xviii. c. 8.

[3] Jehan-Guire was the son of the Great Acbar.

[4] In the wars of the Dives with the Peris, whenever the former took the latter prisoners, "they shut them up in iron cages, and hung them on the highest trees. Here they were visited by their companions, who brought them the choicest odours."—*Richardson.*

BRANCH OF THE ASIATIC

And though bright was his Haram, — a living parterre
Of the flow'rs [1] of this planet — though treasures were there,
For which SOLIMAN's self might have giv'n all the store
That the navy from OPHIR e'er wing'd to his shore,
Yet dim before *her* were the smiles of them all,
And the Light of his Haram was young NOURMAHAL!

But where is she now, this night of joy,
When bliss is every heart's employ? —
When all around her is so bright,
So like the visions of a trance,
That one might think, who came by chance
Into the vale this happy night,
He saw that City of Delight [2]
In Fairy-land, whose streets and tow'rs
Are made of gems and light and flow'rs!
Where is the lov'd Sultana? where,
When mirth brings out the young and fair,
Does she, the fairest, hide her brow,
In melancholy stillness now?

Alas! — how light a cause may move
Dissension between hearts that love!
Hearts that the world in vain had tried,
And sorrow but more closely tied;
That stood the storm, when waves were rough,
Yet in a sunny hour fall off,
Like ships that have gone down at sea,
When heaven was all tranquillity!
A something, light as air — a look,
A word unkind or wrongly taken —
Oh! love, that tempests never shook,
A breath, a touch like this hath shaken.
And ruder words will soon rush in
To spread the breach that words begin;
And eyes forget the gentle ray
They wore in courtship's smiling day;
And voices lose the tone that shed
A tenderness round all they said;
Till fast declining, one by one,
The sweetnesses of love are gone,
And hearts, so lately mingled, seem
Like broken clouds, — or like the stream,
That smiling left the mountain's brow
As though its waters ne'er could sever,
Yet, ere it reach the plain below,
Breaks into floods, that part for ever.

Oh, you, that have the charge of Love,
Keep him in rosy bondage bound,
As in the Fields of Bliss above
He sits, with flow'rets fetter'd round; [3] —
Loose not a tie that round him clings,
Nor ever let him use his wings;
For ev'n an hour, a minute's flight
Will rob the plumes of half their light.
Like that celestial bird, — whose nest
Is found beneath far Eastern skies, —
Whose wings, though radiant when at rest,
Lose all their glory when he flies! [4]

Some diff'rence, of this dang'rous kind, —
By which, though light, the links that bind
The fondest hearts may soon be riv'n;
Some shadow in Love's summer heav'n,
Which, though a fleecy speck at first,
May yet in awful thunder burst; —
Such cloud it is, that now hangs over
The heart of the Imperial Lover,
And far hath banish'd from his sight
His NOURMAHAL, his Haram's Light!
Hence is it, on this happy night,
When Pleasure through the fields and groves
Has let loose all her world of loves,
And every heart has found its own,
He wanders, joyless and alone,
And weary as that bird of Thrace,
Whose pinion knows no resting-place. [5]

In vain the loveliest cheeks and eyes
This Eden of the Earth supplies
Come crowding round — the cheeks are pale,
The eyes are dim: — though rich the spot
With every flow'r this earth has got,
What is it to the nightingale,
If there his darling rose is not? [6]
In vain the Valley's smiling throng
Worship him, as he moves along;
He heeds them not — one smile of hers
Is worth a world of worshippers.

[1] In the Malay language the same word signifies women and flowers.

[2] The capital of Shadukiam. See note [2], p. 356.

[3] See the representation of the Eastern Cupid, pinioned closely round with wreaths of flowers, in *Picart*'s Cérémonies Religieuses.

[4] "Among the birds of Tonquin is a species of goldfinch, which sings so melodiously that it is called the Celestial Bird. Its wings, when it is perched, appear variegated with beautiful colours, but when it flies they lose all their splendour." — *Grosier*.

[5] "As these birds on the Bosphorus are never known to rest, they are called by the French 'les âmes damnées.'" — *Dalloway*.

[6] "You may place a hundred handfuls of fragrant herbs and flowers before the nightingale, yet he wishes not, in his constant heart, for more than the sweet breath of his beloved rose." — *Jami*.

They but the Star's adorers are,
She is the Heav'n that lights the Star!

Hence is it, too, that NOURMAHAL,
Amid the luxuries of this hour
Far from the joyous festival,
Sits in her own sequester'd bow'r,
With no one near, to soothe or aid,
But that inspir'd and wondrous maid,
NAMOUNA, the Enchantress; — one,
O'er whom his race the golden sun
For unremember'd years has run,
Yet never saw her blooming brow
Younger or fairer than 'tis now.
Nay, rather, — as the west wind's sigh
Freshens the flow'r it passes by, —
Time's wing but seem'd, in stealing o'er,
To leave her lovelier than before.
Yet on her smiles a sadness hung,
And when, as oft, she spoke or sung
Of other worlds, there came a light
From her dark eyes so strangely bright,
That all believ'd nor man nor earth
Were conscious of NAMOUNA's birth!

All spells and talismans she knew,
From the great Mantra [1], which around
The Air's sublimer Spirits drew,
To the gold gems [2] of AFRIC, bound
Upon the wand'ring Arab's arm,
To keep him from the Siltim's [3] harm.
And she had pledg'd her pow'rful art, —
Pledg'd it with all the zeal and heart
Of one who knew, though high her sphere,
What 'twas to lose a love so dear, —
To find some spell that should recall
Her Selim's [4] smile to NOURMAHAL!

'Twas midnight — through the lattice, wreath'd
With woodbine, many a perfume breath'd
From plants that wake when others sleep,
From timid jasmine buds, that keep
Their odour to themselves all day,
But, when the sun-light dies away,
Let the delicious secret out
To every breeze that roams about; —
When thus NAMOUNA: — "'Tis the hour
"That scatters spells on herb and flow'r,
"And garlands might be gather'd now,
"That, twin'd around the sleeper's brow,
"Would make him dream of such delights,
"Such miracles and dazzling sights,
"As Genii of the Sun behold,
"At evening, from their tents of gold
"Upon the' horizon — where they play
"Till twilight comes, and, ray by ray,
"Their sunny mansions melt away.
"Now, too, a chaplet might be wreath'd
"Of buds o'er which the moon has breath'd,
"Which worn by her, whose love has stray'd,
"Might bring some Peri from the skies,
"Some sprite, whose very soul is made
"Of flow'rets' breaths and lovers' sighs,
"And who might tell ——"
"For me, for me,"
Cried NOURMAHAL impatiently, —
"Oh! twine that wreath for me to-night."
Then, rapidly, with foot as light
As the young musk-roe's, out she flew,
To cull each shining leaf that grew
Beneath the moonlight's hallowing beams,
For this enchanted Wreath of Dreams.
Anemones and Seas of Gold, [5]
And new-blown lilies of the river,
And those sweet flow'rets, that unfold
Their buds on CAMADEVA's quiver; [6] —
The tube-rose, with her silv'ry light,
That in the Gardens of Malay
Is call'd the Mistress of the Night, [7]
So like a bride, scented and bright,
She comes out when the sun's away; —
Amaranths, such as crown the maids
That wander through ZAMARA's shades; [8] —
And the white moon-flow'r, as it shows,
On SERENDIB's high crags, to those
Who near the isle at evening sail,
Scenting her clove-trees in the gale;
In short, all flow'rets and all plants,
From the divine Amrita tree, [9]

[1] "He is said to have found the great *Mantra*, spell or talisman, through which he ruled over the elements and spirits of all denominations." — *Wilford.*

[2] "The gold jewels of Jinnie, which are called by the Arabs El Herrez, from the supposed charm they contain." — *Jackson.*

[3] "A demon, supposed to haunt woods, &c. in a human shape." — *Richardson.*

[4] The name of Jehan-Guire before his accession to the throne.

[5] "Hemasagara, or the Sea of Gold, with flowers of the brightest gold colour." — *Sir W. Jones.*

[6] "This tree (the Nagacesara) is one of the most delightful on earth, and the delicious odour of its blossoms justly gives them a place in the quiver of Camadeva, or the God of Love." — *Sir W. Jones.*

[7] "The Malayans style the tube-rose (Polianthes tuberosa) Sandal Malam, or the Mistress of the Night." — *Pennant.*

[8] The people of the Batta country in Sumatra (of which Zamara is one of the ancient names), "when not engaged in war, lead an idle, inactive life, passing the day in playing on a kind of flute, crowned with garlands of flowers, among which the globe-amaranthus, a native of the country, mostly prevails." — *Marsden.*

[9] The largest and richest sort (of the Jambu, or rose-apple) is called Amrita, or immortal, and the mythologists of

That blesses heaven's inhabitants
With fruits of immortality,
Down to the basil tuft[1], that waves,
Its fragrant blossom over graves,
And to the humble rosemary,
Whose sweets so thanklessly are shed
To scent the desert[2] and the dead: —
All in that garden bloom, and all
Are gather'd by young NOURMAHAL,
Who heaps her baskets with the flow'rs
And leaves, till they can hold no more;
Then to NAMOUNA flies, and show'rs
Upon her lap the shining store.

With what delight the' Enchantress views
So many buds, bath'd with the dews
And beams of that bless'd hour! — her glance
Spoke something, past all mortal pleasures,
As, in a kind of holy trance,
She hung above those fragrant treasures,
Bending to drink their balmy airs,
As if she mix'd her soul with theirs.
And 'twas, indeed, the perfume shed
From flow'rs and scented flame, that fed
Her charmed life — for none had e'er
Beheld her taste of mortal fare,
Nor ever in aught earthly dip,
But the morn's dew, her roseate lip.
Fill'd with the cool, inspiring smell,
The' Enchantress now begins her spell,
Thus singing as she winds and weaves
In mystic form the glittering leaves: —

I know where the winged visions dwell
That around the night-bed play;
I know each herb and flow'ret's bell,
Where they hide their wings by day.
Then hasten we, maid,
To twine our braid,
To-morrow the dreams and flow'rs will fade.

The image of love, that nightly flies
To visit the bashful maid,
Steals from the jasmine flower, that sighs
Its soul, like her, in the shade.
The dream of a future, happier hour,
That alights on misery's brow,
Springs out of the silv'ry almond-flow'r,
That blooms on a leafless bough.[3]
Then hasten we, maid,
To twine our braid,
To-morrow the dreams and flowers will fade.

The visions, that oft to worldly eyes
The glitter of mines unfold,
Inhabit the mountain-herb[4], that dyes
The tooth of the fawn like gold.
The phantom shapes — oh touch not them —
That appal the murd'rer's sight,
Lurk in the fleshly mandrake's stem,
That shrieks, when pluck'd at night!
Then hasten we, maid,
To twine our braid,
To-morrow the dreams and flowers will fade.

The dream of the injur'd, patient mind,
That smiles with the wrongs of men,
Is found in the bruis'd and wounded rind
Of the cinnamon, sweetest then.
Then hasten we, maid,
To twine our braid,
To-morrow the dreams and flowers will fade.

No sooner was the flow'ry crown
Plac'd on her head, than sleep came down,
Gently as nights of summer fall,
Upon the lids of NOURMAHAL; —
And, suddenly, a tuneful breeze,
As full of small, rich harmonies
As ever wind, that o'er the tents
Of AZAB[5] blew, was full of scents,
Steals on her ear, and floats and swells,
Like the first air of morning creeping
Into those wreathy, Red Sea shells,
Where Love himself, of old, lay sleeping;[6]

Tibet apply the same word to a celestial tree, bearing ambrosial fruit." — *Sir W. Jones*.

[1] Sweet bazil, called Rayhan in Persia, and generally found in churchyards.

"The women in Egypt go, at least two days in the week, to pray and weep at the sepulchres of the dead; and the custom then is to throw upon the tombs a sort of herb which the Arabs call *rihan*, and which is our sweet basil. — *Maillet*, Lett. 10.

[2] "In the Great Desert are found many stalks of lavender and rosemary." — *Asiat. Res.*

[3] "The almond-tree, with white flowers, blossoms on the bare branches." — *Hasselquist*.

[4] An herb on Mount Libanus, which is said to communicate a yellow golden hue to the teeth of the goats and other animals that graze upon it.

Niebuhr thinks this may be the herb which the Eastern alchymists look to as a means of making gold. "Most of those alchymical enthusiasts think themselves sure of success, if they could but find out the herb, which gilds the teeth and gives a yellow colour to the flesh of the sheep that eat it. Even the oil of this plant must be of a golden colour. It is called *Haschischat ed dab*."

Father Jerome Dandini, however, asserts that the teeth of the goats at Mount Libanus are of a *silver* colour; and adds, "this confirms to me that which I observed in Candia: to wit, that the animals that live on Mount Ida eat a certain herb, which renders their teeth of a golden colour; which, acording to my judgment, cannot otherwise proceed than from the mines which are under ground."—*Dandini*, Voyage to Mount Libanus.

[5] The myrrh country.

[6] "This idea (of deities living in shells) was not unknown to the Greeks, who represent the young Nerites, one of the Cupids, as living in shells on the shores of the Red Sea." — *Wilford*.

And now a Spirit form'd, 'twould seem,
Of music and of light, — so fair,
So brilliantly his features beam,
And such a sound is in the air
Of sweetness when he waves his wings, —
Hovers around her, and thus sings:

From CHINDARA's[1] warbling fount I come,
Call'd by that moonlight garland's spell;
From CHINDARA's fount, my fairy home,
Where in music, morn and night, I dwell.
Where lutes in the air are heard about,
And voices are singing the whole day long,
And every sigh the heart breathes out
Is turn'd, as it leaves the lips, to song!
Hither I come
From my fairy home,
And if there's a magic in Music's strain,
I swear by the breath
Of that moonlight wreath,
Thy Lover shall sigh at thy feet again.

For mine is the lay that lightly floats,
And mine are the murm'ring, dying notes,
That fall as soft as snow on the sea,
And melt in the heart as instantly: —
And the passionate strain that, deeply going,
Refines the bosom it trembles through,
As the musk-wind, over the water blowing,
Ruffles the wave, but sweetens it too.

Mine is the charm, whose mystic sway
The Spirits of past Delight obey; —
Let but the tuneful talisman sound,
And they come, like Genii, hov'ring round.
And mine is the gentle song that bears
From soul to soul, the wishes of love,
As a bird, that wafts through genial airs
The cinnamon-seed from grove to grove.[2]

'Tis I that mingle in one sweet measure
The past, the present, and future of pleasure;[3]
When Memory links the tone that is gone
With the blissful tone that's still in the ear;
And Hope from a heavenly note flies on
To a note more heavenly still that is near.

The warrior's heart, when touch'd by me,
Can as downy soft and as yielding be
As his own white plume, that high amid death
Through the field has shone — yet moves with a breath!
And, oh, how the eyes of Beauty glisten,
When Music has reach'd her inward soul,
Like the silent stars, that wink and listen
While Heaven's eternal melodies roll.
So, hither I come
From my fairy home,
And if there's a magic in Music's strain,
I swear by the breath
Of that moonlight wreath,
Thy lover shall sigh at thy feet again.

'Tis dawn — at least that earlier dawn,
Whose glimpses are again withdrawn,[4]
As if the morn had wak'd, and then
Shut close her lids of light again.
And NOURMAHAL is up, and trying
The wonders of her lute, whose strings —
Oh, bliss! — now murmur like the sighing
From that ambrosial Spirit's wings.
And then, her voice 'tis more than human —
Never, till now, had it been given
To lips of any mortal woman
To utter notes so fresh from heaven;
Sweet as the breath of angel sighs,
When angel sighs are most divine. —
"Oh! let it last till night," she cries,
"And he is more than ever mine."

[1] "A fabulous fountain, where instruments are said to be constantly playing." — *Richardson.*

[2] "The Pompadour pigeon is the species, which, by carrying the fruit of the cinnamon to different places, is a great disseminator of this valuable tree." — See *Brown*'s Illustr., Tab. 19.

[3] "Whenever our pleasure arises from a succession of sounds, it is a perception of a complicated nature, made up of a *sensation* of the present sound or note, and an *idea* or remembrance of the foregoing, while their mixture and concurrence produce such a mysterious delight, as neither could have produced alone. And it is often heightened by an anticipation of the succeeding notes. Thus Sense, Memory, and Imagination, are conjunctively employed." — *Gerrard* on Taste.

This is exactly the Epicurean theory of Pleasure, as explained by Cicero: — "Quocirca corpus gaudere tamdiu, dum præsentem sentiret voluptatem: animum et præsentem percipere pariter cum corpore et prospicere venientem, nec præteritam præterfluere sinere."

Madame de Staël accounts upon the same principle for the gratification we derive from *rhyme*: — "Elle est l'image de l'espérance et du souvenir. Un son nous fait désirer celui qui doit lui répondre, et quand le second retentit il nous rappelle celui qui vient de nous échapper."

[4] "The Persians have two mornings, the Soobhi Kazim and the Soobhi Sadig, the false and the real day-break. They account for this phenomenon in a most whimsical manner. They say that as the sun rises from behind the Kohi Qaf (Mount Caucasus), it passes a hole perforated through that mountain, and that darting its rays through it, it is the cause of the Soobhi Kazim, or this temporary appearance of day-break. As it ascends, the earth is again veiled in darkness, until the sun rises above the mountain, and brings with it the Soobhi Sadig, or real morning." — *Scott Waring.* He thinks Milton may allude to this, when he says, —

"Ere the blabbing Eastern scout,
The nice morn on the Indian steep
From her cabin'd loop-hole peep."

And hourly she renews the lay,
So fearful lest its heav'nly sweetness
Should, ere the evening, fade away,—
For things so heav'nly have such fleetness!
But, far from fading, it but grows
Richer, diviner as it flows;
Till rapt she dwells on every string,
And pours again each sound along,
Like echo, lost and languishing,
In love with her own wondrous song.

That evening, (trusting that his soul
Might be from haunting love releas'd
By mirth, by music, and the bowl,)
The' Imperial SELIM held a feast
In his magnificent Shalimar:—[1]
In whose Saloons, when the first star
Of evening o'er the waters trembled,
The Valley's loveliest all assembled;
All the bright creatures that, like dreams,
Glide through its foliage, and drink beams
Of beauty from its founts and streams;[2]
And all those wand'ring minstrel-maids,
Who leave—how *can* they leave?—the shades
Of that dear Valley, and are found
Singing in gardens of the South[3]
Those songs, that ne'er so sweetly sound
As from a young Cashmerian's mouth.

There, too, the Haram's inmates smile;—
Maids from the West, with sun-bright hair,
And from the Garden of the NILE,
Delicate as the roses there;—[4]
Daughters of Love from CYPRUS' rocks,
With Paphian diamonds in their locks;—[5]
Light PERI forms, such as they are
On the gold meads of CANDAHAR;[6]
And they, before whose sleepy eyes,
In their own bright Kathaian bow'rs,
Sparkle such rainbow butterflies,
That they might fancy the rich flow'rs,
That round them in the sun lay sighing,
Had been by magic all set flying.[7]

Every thing young, every thing fair
From East and West is blushing there,
Except—except—oh, NOURMAHAL!
Thou loveliest, dearest of them all,
The one, whose smile shone out alone,
Amidst a world the only one;
Whose light, among so many lights,
Was like that star on starry nights,
The seaman singles from the sky,
To steer his bark for ever by!
Thou wert not there—so SELIM thought,
And every thing seem'd drear without thee;
But, ah! thou wert, thou wert,—and brought
Thy charm of song all fresh about thee.
Mingling unnotic'd with a band
Of lutanists from many a land,
And veil'd by such a mask as shades
The features of young Arab maids,—[8]
A mask that leaves but one eye free,
To do its best in witchery,—
She rov'd, with beating heart, around,
And waited, trembling, for the minute,
When she might try if still the sound
Of her lov'd lute had magic in it.

The board was spread with fruits and wine;
With grapes of gold, like those that shine

[1] "In the centre of the plain, as it approaches the Lake, one of the Delhi Emperors, I believe Shah Jehan, constructed a spacious garden called the Shalimar, which is abundantly stored with fruit-trees and flowering shrubs. Some of the rivulets which intersect the plain are led into a canal at the back of the garden, and flowing through its centre, or occasionally thrown into a variety of water-works, compose the chief beauty of the Shalimar. To decorate this spot the Mogul Princes of India have displayed an equal magnificence and taste; especially Jehan Gheer, who, with the enchanting Noor Mahl, made Kashmire his usual residence during the summer months. On arches thrown over the canal are erected, at equal distances, four or five suites of apartments, each consisting of a saloon, with four rooms at the angles, where the followers of the court attend, and the servants prepare sherbets, coffee, and the hookah. The frame of the doors of the principal saloon is composed of pieces of a stone of a black colour, streaked with yellow lines, and of a closer grain and higher polish than porphyry. They were taken, it is said, from a Hindoo temple, by one of the Mogul princes, and are esteemed of great value." — *Forster.*

[2] "The waters of Cachemir are the more renowned from its being supposed that the Cachemirians are indebted for their beauty to them." — *Ali Yezdi.*

[3] "From him I received the following little Gazzel, or Love Song, the notes of which he committed to paper from the voice of one of those singing girls of Cashmere, who wander from that delightful valley over the various parts of India."— *Persian Miscellanies.*

[4] "The roses of the Jinan Nile, or Garden of the Nile (attached to the Emperor of Marocco's palace) are unequalled, and mattresses are made of their leaves for the men of rank to recline upon." — *Jackson*

[5] "On the side of a mountain near Paphos there is a cavern which produces the most beautiful rock-crystal. On account of its brilliancy it has been called the Paphian diamond." — *Mariti.*

[6] "There is a part of Candahar, called Peria, or Fairy Land." — *Thevenot.* In some of those countries to the north of India, vegetable gold is supposed to be produced.

[7] "These are the butterflies which are called in the Chinese language Flying Leaves. Some of them have such shining colours, and are so variegated, that they may be called flying flowers; and indeed they are always produced in the finest flower-gardens." — *Dunn.*

[8] "The Arabian women wear black masks with little clasps prettily ordered."—*Carreri.* Niebuhr mentions their showing but one eye in conversation.

On CASBIN's hills [1]; — pomegranates full
Of melting sweetness, and the pears,
And sunniest apples [2] that CAUBUL
In all its thousand gardens [3] bears; —
Plantains, the golden and the green,
MALAYA's nectar'd mangusteen; [4]
Prunes of BOKHARA, and sweet nuts
From the far groves of SAMARCAND,
And BASRA dates, and apricots,
Seed of the Sun [5], from IRAN's land; —
With rich conserve of Visna cherries, [6]
Of orange flowers, and of those berries
That, wild and fresh, the young gazelles
Feed on in ERAC's rocky dells. [7]
All these in richest vases smile,
In baskets of pure santal-wood,
And urns of porcelain from that Isle [8]
Sunk underneath the Indian flood,
Whence oft the lucky diver brings
Vases to grace the halls of kings.
Wines, too, of every clime and hue,
Around their liquid lustre threw;
Amber Rosolli [9], — the bright dew
From vineyards of the Green-Sea gushing; [10]
And SHIRAZ wine, that richly ran
As if that jewel, large and rare,
The ruby for which KUBLAI-KHAN
Offer'd a city's wealth [11], was blushing,
Melted within the goblets there!

And amply SELIM quaffs of each,
And seems resolv'd the flood shall reach
His inward heart, — shedding around
A genial deluge, as they run,
That soon shall leave no spot undrown'd,
For Love to rest his wings upon.
He little knew how well the boy
Can float upon a goblet's streams,
Lighting them with his smile of joy; —
As bards have seen him in their dreams,
Down the blue GANGES laughing glide
Upon a rosy lotus wreath, [12]
Catching new lustre from the tide
That with his image shone beneath.

But what are cups, without the aid
Of song to speed them as they flow?
And see — a lovely Georgian maid,
With all the bloom, the freshen'd glow
Of her own country maidens' looks,
When warm they rise from TEFLIS' brooks; [13]
And with an eye, whose restless ray,
Full, floating, dark — oh, he, who knows
His heart is weak, of Heav'n should pray
To guard him from such eyes as those! —
With a voluptuous wildness flings
Her snowy hand across the strings
Of a syrinda [14], and thus sings: —

Come hither, come hither — by night and by day,
We linger in pleasures that never are gone;
Like the waves of the summer, as one dies away,
Another as sweet and as shining comes on.
And the love that is o'er, in expiring, gives birth
To a new one as warm, as unequall'd in bliss;
And, oh! if there be an Elysium on earth,
It is this, it is this. [15]

Here maidens are sighing, and fragrant their sigh
As the flow'r of the Amra just op'd by a bee; [16]
And precious their tears as that rain from the sky, [17]
Which turns into pearls as it falls in the sea.
Oh! think what the kiss and the smile must be worth
When the sigh and the tear are so perfect in bliss,
And own if there be an Elysium on earth,
It is this, it is this.

1 "The golden grapes of Casbin." — *Description of Persia.*

2 "The fruits exported from Cabul are apples, pears, pomegranates," &c. — *Elphinstone.*

3 "We sat down under a tree, listened to the birds, and talked with the son of our Mehmaundar about our country and Caubul, of which he gave an enchanting account: that city and its 100,000 gardens," &c. — *Id.*

4 "The mangusteen, the most delicate fruit in the world; the pride of the Malay islands." — *Marsden.*

5 "A delicious kind of apricot, called by the Persians tokmek-shems, signifying sun's seed." — *Description of Persia.*

6 "Sweetmeats, in a crystal cup, consisting of rose-leaves in conserve, with lemon of Visna cherry, orange flowers," &c. — *Russel.*

7 "Antelopes cropping the fresh berries of Erac." — The *Moallakat*, Poem of Tarafa.

8 "Mauri-ga-Sima, an island near Formosa, supposed to have been sunk in the sea for the crimes of its inhabitants. The vessels which the fishermen and divers bring up from it are sold at an immense price in China and Japan." — See *Kempfer.*

9 Persian Tales.

10 The white wine of Kishma.

11 "The king of Zeilan is said to have the very finest ruby that was ever seen. Kublai-Khan sent and offered the value of a city for it, but the King answered he would not give it for the treasure of the world." — *Marco Polo.*

12 The Indians feign that Cupid was first seen floating down the Ganges on the Nymphæa Nelumbo. — See *Pennant.*

13 Teflis is celebrated for its natural warm baths. — See *Ebn Haukal.*

14 "The Indian Syrinda, or guitar." — *Symes.*

15 "Around the exterior of the Dewan Khafs (a building of Shah Allum's) in the cornice are the following lines in letters of gold upon a ground of white marble — '*If there be a paradise upon earth, it is this, it is this.*'" — *Francklin.*

16 "Delightful are the flowers of the Amra trees on the mountain-tops, while the murmuring bees pursue their voluptuous toil." — *Song of Jayadeva.*

17 "The Nisan or drops of spring rain, which they believe to produce pearls if they fall into shells." — *Richardson.*

Here sparkles the nectar, that, hallow'd by love,
Could draw down those angels of old from their sphere,
Who for wine of this earth [1] left the fountains above,
And forgot heav'n's stars for the eyes we have here.
And, bless'd with the odour our goblet gives forth,
What Spirit the sweets of his Eden would miss?
For, oh! if there be an Elysium on earth,
It is this, it is this.

The Georgian's song was scarcely mute,
When the same measure, sound for sound,
Was caught up by another lute,
And so divinely breath'd around,
That all stood hush'd and wondering,
And turn'd and look'd into the air,
As if they thought to see the wing,
Of Israfil [2], the Angel, there;—
So pow'rfully on ev'ry soul
That new, enchanted measure stole.
While now a voice, sweet as the note
Of the charm'd lute, was heard to float
Along its chords, and so entwine
Its sounds with theirs, that none knew whether
The voice or lute was most divine,
So wondrously they went together:—

There's a bliss beyond all that the minstrel has told,
When two, that are link'd in one heav'nly tie,
With heart never changing, and brow never cold,
Love on through all ills, and love on till they die!
One hour of a passion so sacred is worth
Whole ages of heartless and wand'ring bliss;
And, oh! if there *be* an Elysium on earth,
It is this, it is this.

'Twas not the air, 'twas not the words,
But that deep magic in the chords
And in the lips, that gave such pow'r
As Music knew not till that hour.
At once a hundred voices said,
"It is the mask'd Arabian maid!"
While Selim, who had felt the strain
Deepest of any, and had lain
Some minutes rapt, as in a trance,
After the fairy sounds were o'er,
Too inly touch'd for utterance,
Now motion'd with his hand for more:—

Fly to the desert, fly with me,
Our Arab tents are rude for thee;
But, oh! the choice what heart can doubt,
Of tents with love, or thrones without?

Our rocks are rough, but smiling there
The' acacia waves her yellow hair,
Lonely and sweet, nor lov'd the less
For flow'ring in a wilderness.

Our sands are bare, but down their slope
The silv'ry-footed antelope
As gracefully and gaily springs
As o'er the marble courts of kings.

Then come—thy Arab maid will be
The lov'd and lone acacia-tree,
The antelope, whose feet shall bless
With their light sound thy loneliness.

Oh! there are looks and tones that dart
An instant sunshine through the heart,—
As if the soul that minute caught
Some treasure it through life had sought;

As if the very lips and eyes,
Predestin'd to have all our sighs,
And never be forgot again,
Sparkled and spoke before us then!

So came thy ev'ry glance and tone
When first on me they breath'd and shone;
New, as if brought from other spheres,
Yet welcome as if lov'd for years.

Then fly with me,—if thou hast known
No other flame, nor falsely thrown
A gem away, that thou hadst sworn
Should ever in thy heart be worn.

Come, if the love thou hast for me,
Is pure and fresh as mine for thee,—
Fresh as the fountain under ground,
When first 'tis by the lapwing found. [3]

But if for me thou dost forsake
Some other maid, and rudely break
Her worshipp'd image from its base,
To give to me the ruin'd place;—

Then, fare thee well—I'd rather make
My bower upon some icy lake
When thawing suns begin to shine,
Than trust to love so false as thine!

[1] For an account of the share which wine had in the fall of the angels, see *Mariti*.

[2] The Angel of Music. See note [3], p. 380.

[3] The Hudhud, or Lapwing, is supposed to have the power of discovering water under ground.

There was a pathos in this lay,
That, ev'n without enchantment's art,
Would instantly have found its way
Deep into SELIM's burning heart;
But, breathing, as it did, a tone
To earthly lutes and lips unknown;
With every chord fresh from the touch
Of Music's Spirit,—'twas too much!
Starting, he dash'd away the cup,—
Which, all the time of this sweet air,
His hand had held, untasted, up,
As if 'twere fix'd by magic there,—
And naming her, so long unnam'd,
So long unseen, wildly exclaim'd,
"Oh NOURMAHAL! oh NOURMAHAL!
"Hadst thou but sung this witching strain,
"I could forget—forgive thee all,
"And never leave those eyes again."

The mask is off—the charm is wrought—
And SELIM to his heart has caught,
In blushes, more than ever bright,
His NOURMAHAL, his Haram's Light!
And well do vanish'd frowns enhance
The charm of every brighten'd glance;
And dearer seems each dawning smile
For having lost its light awhile:
And, happier now for all her sighs,
As on his arm her head reposes,
She whispers him, with laughing eyes,
"Remember, love, the Feast of Roses!"

FADLADEEN, at the conclusion of this light rhapsody, took occasion to sum up his opinion of the young Cashmerian's poetry,—of which, he trusted, they had that evening heard the last. Having recapitulated the epithets, "frivolous"—"inharmonious"—"nonsensical," he proceeded to say that, viewing it in the most favourable light, it resembled one of those Maldivian boats, to which the Princess had alluded in the relation of her dream [1],—a slight, gilded thing, sent adrift without rudder or ballast, and with nothing but vapid sweets and faded flowers on board. The profusion, indeed, of flowers and birds, which this poet had ready on all occasions,—not to mention dews, gems, &c.—was a most oppressive kind of opulence to his hearers; and had the unlucky effect of giving to his style all the glitter of the flower-garden without its method, and all the flutter of the aviary without its song. In addition to this, he chose his subjects badly, and was always most inspired by the worst parts of them. The charms of paganism, the merits of rebellion,—these were the themes honoured with his particular enthusiasm; and, in the poem just recited, one of his most palatable passages was in praise of that beverage of the Unfaithful, wine;—"being, perhaps," said he, relaxing into a smile, as conscious of his own character in the Haram on this point, "one of those bards, whose fancy owes all its illumination to the grape, like that painted porcelain [2], so curious and so rare, whose images are only visible when liquor is poured into it." Upon the whole, it was his opinion, from the specimens which they had heard, and which, he begged to say, were the most tiresome part of the journey, that—whatever other merits this well-dressed young gentleman might possess—poetry was by no means his proper avocation: "and indeed," concluded the critic, "from his fondness for flowers and for birds, I would venture to suggest that a florist or a bird-catcher is a much more suitable calling for him than a poet."

They had now begun to ascend those barren mountains, which separate Cashmere from the rest of India; and, as the heats were intolerable, and the time of their encampments limited to the few hours necessary for refreshment and repose, there was an end to all their delightful evenings, and LALLA ROOKH saw no more of FERAMORZ. She now felt that her short dream of happiness was over, and that she had nothing but the recollection of its few blissful hours, like the one draught of sweet water that serves the camel across the wilderness, to be her heart's refreshment during the dreary waste of life that was before her. The blight that had fallen upon her spirits soon found its way to her cheek, and her ladies saw with regret—though not without some suspicion of the cause—that the beauty of their mistress, of which they were almost as proud as of their own, was fast vanishing away at the very moment of all when she had most need of it. What must the King of Bucharia feel, when, instead of the lively and beautiful LALLA ROOKH, whom the poets of Delhi had described as more perfect than the divinest images in the house of Azor [3], he should receive a

[1] See p. 371.

[2] "The Chinese had formerly the art of painting on the sides of porcelain vessels fish and other animals, which were only perceptible when the vessel was full of some liquor. They call this species Kia-tsin, that is, *azure is put in press*, on account of the manner in which the azure is laid on."—"They are every now and then trying to recover the art of this magical painting, but to no purpose."—*Dunn.*

[3] An eminent carver of idols, said in the Koran to be father to Abraham. "I have such a lovely idol as is not to be met with in the house of Azor."—*Hafiz.*

pale and inanimate victim, upon whose cheek neither health nor pleasure bloomed, and from whose eyes Love had fled,—to hide himself in her heart?

If any thing could have charmed away the melancholy of her spirits, it would have been the fresh airs and enchanting scenery of that Valley, which the Persians so justly called the Unequalled.[1] But neither the coolness of its atmosphere, so luxurious after toiling up those bare and burning mountains,—neither the splendour of the minarets and pagodas, that shone out from the depth of its woods, nor the grottos, hermitages, and miraculous fountains[2], which make every spot of that region holy ground,—neither the countless waterfalls, that rush into the Valley from all those high and romantic mountains that encircle it, nor the fair city on the Lake, whose houses, roofed with flowers[3], appeared at a distance like one vast and variegated parterre;—not all these wonders and glories of the most lovely country under the sun could steal her heart for a minute from those sad thoughts, which but darkened, and grew bitterer every step she advanced.

The gay pomps and processions that met her upon her entrance into the Valley, and the magnificence with which the roads all along were decorated, did honour to the taste and gallantry of the young King. It was night when they approached the city, and, for the last two miles, they had passed under arches, thrown from hedge to hedge, festooned with only those rarest roses from which the Attar Gul, more precious than gold, is distilled, and illuminated in rich and fanciful forms with lanterns of the triple-coloured tortoise-shell of Pegu.[4] Sometimes, from a dark wood by the side of the road, a display of fire-works would break out, so sudden and so brilliant, that a Brahmin might fancy he beheld that grove, in whose purple shade the God of Battles was born, bursting into a flame at the moment of his birth;—while, at other times, a quick and playful irradiation continued to brighten all the fields and gardens by which they passed, forming a line of dancing lights along the horizon; like the meteors of the north as they are seen by those hunters[5], who pursue the white and blue foxes on the confines of the Icy Sea.

These arches and fire-works delighted the Ladies of the Princess exceedingly; and with their usual good logic, they deduced from his taste for illuminations, that the King of Bucharia would make the most exemplary husband imaginable. Nor, indeed, could LALLA ROOKH herself help feeling the kindness and splendour with which the young bridegroom welcomed her;—but she also felt how painful is the gratitude, which kindness from those we cannot love excites; and that their best blandishments come over the heart with all that chilling and deadly sweetness, which we can fancy in the cold, odoriferous wind[6] that is to blow over this earth in the last days.

The marriage was fixed for the morning after her arrival, when she was, for the first time, to be presented to the monarch in that Imperial Palace beyond the lake, called the Shalimar. Though never before had a night of more wakeful and anxious thought been passed in the Happy Valley, yet, when she rose in the morning, and her Ladies came around her, to assist in the adjustment of the bridal ornaments, they thought they had never seen her look half so beautiful. What she had lost of the bloom and radiancy of her charms was more than made up by that intel-

[1] Kachmire be Nazeer. — *Forster*.

[2] The pardonable superstition of the sequestered inhabitants has multiplied the places of worship of Mahadeo, of Beschan, and of Brama. All Cashmere is holy land, and miraculous fountains abound." — *Major Rennel*'s Memoirs of a Map of Hindostan.

Jehan-Guire mentions "a fountain in Cashmere called Tirnagh, which signifies a snake; probably because some large snake had formerly been seen there."—"During the lifetime of my father, I went twice to this fountain, which is about twenty coss from the city of Cashmere. The vestiges of places of worship and sanctity are to be traced without number amongst the ruins and the caves, which are interspersed in its neighbourhood."—*Toozek Jehangeery*.—Vide *Asiat. Misc.*, vol. ii.

There is another account of Cashmere by Abul-Fazil, the author of the Ayin-Acbaree, "who," says *Major Rennel*, "appears to have caught some of the enthusiasm of the valley, by his description of the holy places in it."

[3] "On a standing roof of wood is laid a covering of fine earth, which shelters the building from the great quantity of snow that falls in the winter season. This fence communicates an equal warmth in winter, as a refreshing coolness in the summer season, when the tops of the houses, which are planted with a variety of flowers, exhibit at a distance the spacious view of a beautifully-chequered parterre." — *Forster*.

[4] "Two hundred slaves there are, who have no other office than to hunt the woods and marshes for triple-coloured tortoises for the King's Vivary. Of the shells of these also lanterns are made." — *Vincent le Blanc*'s Travels.

[5] For a description of the Aurora Borealis as it appears to these hunters, vide *Encyclopædia*.

[6] This wind, which is to blow from Syria Damascena, is, according to the Mahometans, one of the signs of the Last Day's approach.

Another of the signs is, "Great distress in the world, so that a man when he passes by another's grave shall say, Would to God I were in his place!" — *Sale*'s Preliminary Discourse.

lectual expression, that soul beaming forth from the eyes, which is worth all the rest of loveliness. When they had tinged her fingers with the Henna leaf, and placed upon her brow a small coronet of jewels, of the shape worn by the ancient Queens of Bucharia, they flung over her head the rose-coloured bridal veil, and she proceeded to the barge that was to convey her across the lake;—first kissing, with a mournful look, the little amulet of cornelian, which her father at parting had hung about her neck.

The morning was as fresh and fair as the maid on whose nuptials it rose, and the shining lake all covered with boats, the minstrels playing upon the shores of the islands, and the crowded summer-houses on the green hills around, with shawls and banners waving from their roofs, presented such a picture of animated rejoicing, as only she who was the object of it all, did not feel with transport. To LALLA ROOKH alone it was a melancholy pageant; nor could she have even borne to look upon the scene, were it not for a hope that, among the crowds around, she might once more perhaps catch a glimpse of FERAMORZ. So much was her imagination haunted by this thought, that there was scarcely an islet or boat she passed on the way, at which her heart did not flutter with the momentary fancy that he was there. Happy, in her eyes, the humblest slave upon whom the light of his dear looks fell!—In the barge immediately after the princess sat FADLADEEN, with his silken curtains thrown widely apart, that all might have the benfit of his august presence, and with his head full of the speech he was to deliver to the King, "concerning FERAMORZ, and literature, and the Chabuk, as connected therewith."

They now had entered the canal which leads from the Lake to the splendid domes and saloons of the Shalimar, and went gliding on through the gardens that ascended from each bank, full of flowering shrubs that made the air all perfume; while from the middle of the canal rose jets of water, smooth and unbroken, to such a dazzling height, that they stood like tall pillars of diamond in the sunshine. After sailing under the arches of various saloons, they at length arrived at the last and most magnificent, where the monarch awaited the coming of his bride; and such was the agitation of her heart and frame, that it was with difficulty she could walk up the marble steps which were covered with cloth of gold for her ascent from the barge. At the end of the hall stood two thrones, as precious as the Cerulean Throne of Coolburga[1], on one of which sat ALIRIS, the youthful King of Bucharia, and on the other was, in a few minutes, to be placed the most beautiful Princess in the world. Immediately upon the entrance of LALLA ROOKH into the saloon, the monarch descended from his throne to meet her; but scarcely had he time to take her hand in his, when she screamed with surprise, and fainted at his feet. It was FERAMORZ himself that stood before her!—FERAMORZ was, himself, the Sovereign of Bucharia, who in this disguise had accompanied his young bride from Delhi, and, having, won her love as an humble minstrel, now amply deserved to enjoy it as a King.

The consternation of FADLADEEN at this discovery was, for the moment, almost pitiable. But change of opinion is a resource too convenient in courts for this experienced courtier not to have learned to avail himself of it. His criticisms were all, of course, recanted instantly: he was seized with an admiration of the King's verses, as unbounded as, he begged him to believe, it was disinterested; and the following week saw him in possession of an additional place, swearing by all the Saints of Islam that never had there existed so great a poet as the Monarch ALIRIS, and, moreover, ready to prescribe his favourite regimen of the Chabuk for every man, woman, and child that dared to think otherwise.

Of the happiness of the King and Queen of Bucharia, after such a beginning, there can be but little doubt; and, among the lesser symptoms, it is recorded of LALLA ROOKH, that, to the day of her death, in memory of their delightful journey, she never called the King by any other name than FERAMORZ.

[1] "On Mahommed Shaw's return to Koolburga (the capital of Dekkan), he made a great festival, and mounted this throne with much pomp and magnificence, calling it Firozeh or Cerulean. I have heard some old persons, who saw the throne Firozeh in the reign of Sultan Mamood Bhamenee, describe it. They say that it was in length nine feet, and three in breadth; made of ebony, covered with plates of pure gold, and set with precious stones of immense value. Every prince of the house of Bhamenee, who possessed this throne, made a point of adding to it some rich stones; so that when, in the reign of Sultan Mamood, it was taken to pieces, to remove some of the jewels to be set in vases and cups, the jewellers valued it at one corore of oons (nearly four millions sterling). I learned also that it was called Firozeh from being partly enamelled of a sky-blue colour, which was in time totally concealed by the number of jewels."—*Ferishta.*

POLITICAL AND SATIRICAL POEMS.

LINES ON THE DEATH OF MR. P—RC—V—L.

In the dirge we sung o'er him no censure was heard,
Unembitter'd and free did the tear-drop descend;
We forgot, in that hour, how the statesman had err'd,
And wept for the husband, the father, and friend.

Oh, proud was the meed his integrity won,
And gen'rous indeed were the tears that we shed,
When, in grief, we forgot all the ill he had done,
And, though wrong'd by him, living, bewail'd him, when dead.

Even now, if one harsher emotion intrude,
'Tis to wish he had chosen some lowlier state,
Had known what he was—and, content to be *good*,
Had ne'er, for our ruin, aspir'd to be *great*.

So, left through their own little orbit to move,
His years might have roll'd inoffensive away;
His children might still have been bless'd with his love,
And England would ne'er have been curs'd with his sway.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

Sir,

In order to explain the following Fragment, it is necessary to refer your readers to a late florid description of the Pavilion at Brighton, in the apartments of which, we are told, "Fum, *The Chinese Bird of Royalty*," is a principal ornament.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Mum.

FUM AND HUM, THE TWO BIRDS OF ROYALTY.

One day the Chinese Bird of Royalty, Fum,
Thus accosted our own Bird of Royalty, Hum,
In that Palace or China-shop (Brighton, which is it?)
Where Fum had just come to pay Hum a short visit.—
Near akin are these Birds, though they differ in nation
(The breed of the Hums is as old as creation);
Both, full-craw'd Legitimates—both, birds of prey,
Both, cackling and ravenous creatures, half way
'Twixt the goose and the vulture, like Lord C—stl——gh.
While Fum deals in Mandarins, Bonzes, Bohea,
Peers, Bishops, and Punch, Hum, are sacred to thee!
So congenial their tastes, that, when Fum first did light on
The floor of that grand China-warehouse at Brighton,
The lanterns, and dragons, and things round the dome
Were so like what he left, "Gad," says Fum, "I'm at home."—
And when, turning, he saw Bishop L——ge,
"Zooks, it is,"
Quoth the Bird, "Yes—I know him—a Bonze, by his phyz—
"And that jolly old idol he kneels to so low
"Can be none but our round-about godhead, fat Fo!"
It chanc'd at this moment, the' Episcopal Prig
Was imploring the P——e to dispense with his wig,[1]
Which the Bird, overhearing, flew high o'er his head,
And some Tobit-like marks of his patronage shed,
Which so dimm'd the poor Dandy's idolatrous eye,
That, while Fum cried "Oh Fo!" all the court cried "Oh fie!"

But, a truce to digression;—these Birds of a feather
Thus talk'd, t'other night, on State matters together;

[1] In consequence of an old promise, that he should be allowed to wear his own hair, whenever he might be elevated to a Bishopric by his R——l H——ss.

(The P —— E just in bed, or about to depart for't,
His legs full of gout, and his arms full of
H—RTF—D,)
" I say, HUM," says FUM—FUM, of course, spoke
Chinese,
But, bless you, that's nothing—at Brighton one
sees
Foreign lingoes and Bishops *translated* with ease—
" I say, HUM, how fares it with Royalty now?
" Is it *up?* is it *prime?* is it *spooney*—or how?"
(The Bird had just taken a flash-man's degree
Under B—RR—M—RE, Y———TH, and young
Master L——E)
" As for us in Pekin"——here, a devil of a din
From the bed-chamber came, where that long
Mandarin,
C—stl——gh (whom FUM calls the *Confucius* of
Prose),
Was rehearsing a speech upon Europe's repose
To the deep, double bass of the fat Idol's nose.

(*Nota bene*—his Lordship and L—V—RP—L
come,
In collateral lines, from the old Mother HUM,
C—STL——GH a HUM-bug—L—V—RP—L a
HUM-drum.)
The Speech being finish'd, out rush'd C—STL—GH,
Saddled HUM in a hurry, and, whip, spur, away,
Through the regions of air, like a Snip on his
hobby,
Ne'er paus'd, till he lighted in St. Stephen's lobby.
* * * * * *

LINES ON THE DEATH OF SH—R—D—N.

Principibus placuisse viris!—HORAT.

YES, grief will have way—but the fast falling tear
Shall be mingled with deep execrations on those,
Who could bask in that Spirit's meridian career,
And yet leave it thus lonely and dark at its
close:—

Whose vanity flew round him, only while fed
By the odour his fame in its summer-time
gave;—
Whose vanity now, with quick scent for the dead,
Like the Ghole of the East, comes to feed at his
grave.

Oh! it sickens the heart to see bosoms so hollow,
And spirits so mean in the great and high-born;
To think what a long line of titles may follow
The relics of him who died—friendless and lorn!

How proud they can press to the fun'ral array
Of one, whom they shunn'd in his sickness and
sorrow:—
How bailiffs may seize his last blanket, to-day,
Whose pall shall be held up by nobles to-
morrow!

And Thou, too, whose life, a sick epicure's dream,
Incoherent and gross, even grosser had pass'd,
Were it not for that cordial and soul-giving
beam,
Which his friendship and wit o'er thy nothing-
ness cast:—

No, not for the wealth of the land, that supplies
thee
With millions to heap upon Foppery's shrine;—
No, not for the riches of all who despise thee,
Though this would make Europe's whole opu-
lence mine;—

Would I suffer what—ev'n in the heart that thou
hast—
All mean as it is—must have consciously
burn'd,
When the pittance, which shame had wrung from
thee at last,
And which found all his wants at an end, was
return'd;[1]

" Was *this* then the fate,"—future ages will say,
When *some* names shall live but in history's curse;
When Truth will be heard, and these Lords of
a day
Be forgotten as fools, or remember'd as worse;—

" Was this then the fate of that high-gifted man,
" The pride of the palace, the bow'r and the hall,
" The orator,—dramatist,—minstrel,—who ran
" Through each mode of the lyre, and was
master of all;—

" Whose mind was an essence, compounded with
art
" From the finest and best of all other men's
pow'rs:—
" Who rul'd, like a wizard, the world of the heart,
" And could call up its sunshine, or bring down
its show'rs;—

[1] The sum was two hundred pounds — *offered* when Sh—r—d—n could no longer take any sustenance, and declined, for him, by his friends.

" Whose humour, as gay as the fire-fly's light,
" Play'd round every subject, and shone as it play'd;—
" Whose wit, in the combat, as gentle as bright,
" Ne'er carried a heart-stain away on its blade;—

" Whose eloquence — bright'ning whatever it tried,
" Whether reason or fancy, the gay or the grave,—
" Was as rapid, as deep, and as brilliant a tide,
" As ever bore Freedom aloft on its wave!"

Yes — such was the man, and so wretched his fate;—
And thus, sooner or later, shall all have to grieve,
Who waste their morn's dew in the beams of the Great,
And expect 'twill return to refresh them at eve.

In the woods of the North there are insects that prey
On the brain of the elk till his very last sigh;[1]
Oh, Genius! thy patrons, more cruel than they,
First feed on thy brains, and then leave thee to die!

EPISTLE

FROM

TOM CRIB TO BIG BEN[2]

CONCERNING SOME FOUL PLAY IN A LATE TRANSACTION.[3]

" Ahi, mio Ben!" — METASTASIO.[4]

WHAT! BEN, my old hero, is this your renown?
Is *this* the new *go?* — kick a man when he's down!
When the foe has knock'd under, to tread on him then —
By the fist of my father, I blush for thee, BEN!
" Foul! foul!" all the lads of the Fancy exclaim —
CHARLEY SHOCK is electrified — BELCHER spits flame —
And MOLYNEUX — ay, even BLACKY[5] cries " shame!"

Time was, when JOHN BULL little difference spied
'Twixt the foe at his feet, and the friend at his side:
When he found (such his humour in fighting and eating)
His foe, like his beef-steak, the sweeter for beating.
But this comes, Master BEN, of your curst foreign notions,
Your trinkets, wigs, thingumbobs, gold lace and lotions;
Your Noyeaus, Curaçoas, and the Devil knows what —
(One swig of *Blue Ruin*[6] is worth the whole lot!)
Your great and small *crosses* — (my eyes, what a brood!
A *cross*-buttock from *me* would do some of them good!)
Which have spoilt you, till hardly a drop, my old porpoise,
Of pure English *claret* is left in your *corpus;*
And (as JIM says) the only one trick, good or bad,
Of the Fancy you're up to, is *fibbing*, my lad.
Hence it comes, — BOXIANA, disgrace to thy page! —
Having floor'd, by good luck, the first *swell* of the age,
Having conquer'd the *prime one*, that *mill'd* us all round,
You kick'd him, old BEN, as he gasp'd on the ground!
Ay — just at the time to show spunk, if you'd got any —
Kick'd him, and jaw'd him, and *lag'd*[7] him to Botany!
Oh, shade of the *Cheesemonger!*[8] you, who, alas,
Doubled up, by the dozen, those Mounseers in brass,
On that great day of *milling*, when blood lay in lakes,
When Kings held the bottle, and Europe the stakes,
Look down upon BEN — see him, *dunghill* all o'er,
Insult the fall'n foe, that can harm him no more!
Out, cowardly *spooney!* — again and again,
By the fist of my father, I blush for thee, BEN.
To *show the white feather* is many men's doom,
But, what of *one* feather? — BEN shows a *whole Plume.*

[1] Naturalists have observed that, upon dissecting an elk, there was found in its head some *large* flies, with its brain almost eaten away by them. — *History of Poland.*

[2] A nickname given, at this time, to the Pr—ce R—g—t.

[3] Written soon after Bonaparte's transportation to St. Helena.

[4] Tom, I suppose, was "assisted" to this Motto by Mr. Jackson, who, it is well known, keeps the most learned company going.

[5] Names and nicknames of celebrated pugilists at that time.

[6] Gin.

[7] Transported.

[8] A Life Guardsman, one of *the Fancy*, who distinguished himself, and was killed in the memorable *set-to* at Waterloo.

THE FUDGE FAMILY IN PARIS.

Le Leggi della Maschera richiedono che una persona mascherata non sia salutata per nome da uno che la conosce malgrado il suo travestimento. — CASTIGLIONE.

PREFACE.

IN what manner the following Epistles came into my hands, it is not necessary for the public to know. It will be seen by Mr. FUDGE's Second Letter, that he is one of those gentlemen whose *Secret Services* in Ireland, under the mild ministry of my Lord C———GH, have been so amply and gratefully remunerated. Like his friend and associate, THOMAS REYNOLDS, Esq., he had retired upon the reward of his honest industry ; but has lately been induced to appear again in active life, and superintend the training of that *Delatorian Cohort*, which Lord S—DM—TH, in his wisdom and benevolence, has organized.

Whether Mr. FUDGE, himself, has yet made any discoveries, does not appear from the following pages. But much may be expected from a person of his zeal and sagacity, and, indeed, to *him*, Lord S—DM—TH, and the Greenland-bound ships, the eyes of all lovers of *discoveries* are now most anxiously directed.

I regret much that I have been obliged to omit Mr. BOB FUDGE's Third Letter, concluding the adventures of his Day with the Dinner, Opera, &c. &c. ; — but, in consequence of some remarks upon Marinette's thin drapery, which, it was thought, might give offence to certain well-meaning persons, the manuscript was sent back to Paris for his revision, and had not returned when the last sheet was put to press.

It will not, I hope, be thought presumptuous, if I take this opportunity of complaining of a very serious injustice I have suffered from the public. Dr. KING wrote a treatise to prove that BENTLEY "was not the author of his own book," and a similar absurdity has been asserted of *me*, in almost all the best-informed literary circles. With the name of the real author staring them in the face, they have yet persisted in attributing my works to other people ; and the fame of the Two-penny Post-Bag — such as it is — having hovered doubtfully over various persons, has at last settled upon the head of a certain little gentleman, who wears it, I understand, as complacently as if it actually belonged to him ; without even the honesty of avowing, with his own favourite author, (he will excuse the pun)

Εγω δ' 'Ο ΜΩΡΟΣ αρας
Εδησαμην μετωπω.

I can only add, that if any lady or gentleman, curious in such matters, will take the trouble of calling at my lodgings, 245. Piccadilly, I shall have the honour of assuring them, *in propriâ personâ*, that I am — his, or her,

Very obedient
And very humble Servant,
THOMAS BROWN, THE YOUNGER.

April 17. 1818.

THE FUDGE FAMILY IN PARIS.

LETTER I.

FROM MISS BIDDY FUDGE TO MISS DOROTHY ———, OF CLONKILTY, IN IRELAND.

Amiens.

DEAR DOLL, while the tails of our horses are plaiting,
The trunks tying on, and Papa, at the door,
Into very bad French is, as usual, translating
His English resolve not to give a *sou* more,
I sit down to write you a line — only think! —
A letter from France, with French pens and French ink,
How delightful ! though, would you believe it, my dear ?
I have seen nothing yet *very* wonderful here ;

No adventure, no sentiment, far as we've come,
But the corn-fields and trees quite as dull as at home;
And *but* for the post-boy, his boots and his queue,
I might *just* as well be at Clonkilty with you!
In vain, at DESSEIN's, did I take from my trunk
That divine fellow, STERNE, and fall reading "The Monk;"
In vain did I think of his charming Dead Ass,
And remember the crust and the wallet — alas!
No monks can be had now for love or for money,
(All owing, Pa says, to that infidel BONEY;)
And, though *one* little Neddy we saw in our drive
Out of classical Nampont, the beast was alive!

By the by, though, at Calais, Papa *had* a touch
Of romance on the pier, which affected me much.
At the sight of that spot, where our darling DIX-HUIT
Set the first of his own dear legitimate feet,[1]
(Modell'd out so exactly, and—God bless the mark!
'Tis a foot, Dolly, worthy so *Grand* a *Monarque*),
He exclaim'd, "Oh, mon Roi!" and, with tear-dropping eye,
Stood to gaze on the spot — while some Jacobin, nigh,
Mutter'd out with a shrug, (what an insolent thing!)
"Ma foi, he be right — 'tis de Englishman's King;
And dat *gros pied de cochon* — begar, me vil say
Dat de foot look mosh better, if turn'd toder way."
There's the pillar, too—Lord! I had nearly forgot—
What a charming idea! — rais'd close to the spot;
The mode being now, (as you've heard, I suppose,)
To build tombs over legs[2], and raise pillars to toes.

This is all that's occurr'd sentimental as yet;
Except, indeed, some little flow'r-nymphs we've met,
Who disturb one's romance with pecuniary views,
Flinging flow'rs in your path, and then — bawling for *sous!*
And some picturesque beggars, whose multitudes seem
To recall the good days of the *ancien régime*,
All as ragged and brisk, you'll be happy to learn,
And as thin as they were in the time of dear STERNE.

Our party consists (in a neat Calais job)
Of Papa and myself, Mr. CONNOR and BOB.
You remember how sheepish BOB look'd at Kilrandy,
But, Lord! he's quite alter'd — they've made him a Dandy;
A thing, you know, whisker'd, great-coated, and lac'd,
Like an hour-glass, exceedingly small in the waist:
Quite a new sort of creatures, unknown yet to scholars,
With heads, so immovably stuck in shirt-collars,
That seats, like our music-stools, soon must be found them,
To twirl, when the creatures may wish to look round them.
In short, dear, "a Dandy" describes what I mean,
And BOB's far the best of the *genus* I've seen:
An improving young man, fond of learning, ambitious,
And goes now to Paris to study French dishes,
Whose names — think, how quick! he already knows pat,
A la braise, petits pâtés, and — what d'ye call that
They inflict on potatoes? — oh! *maître d'hôtel* —
I assure you, dear DOLLY, he knows them as well
As if nothing else all his life he had eat,
Though a bit of them BOBBY has never touch'd yet;
But just knows the names of French dishes and cooks,
As dear Pa knows the titles of authors and books.

As to Pa, what d'ye think?—mind, it's all *entre nous*,
But you know, love, I never keep secrets from you—
Why, he's writing a book — what! a tale? a romance?
No, ye Gods, would it were! — but his Travels in France;
At the special desire (he let out t'other day)
Of his great friend and patron, my Lord C-STL-R-GH,
Who said, "My dear FUDGE" —— I forget the exact words,
And, it's strange, no one ever remembers my Lord's;
But 'twas something to say that, as all must allow
A good orthodox work is much wanting just now,
To expound to the world the new — thingummie — science,
Found out by the — what's-its-name — Holy Alliance,
And prove to mankind that their rights are but folly,
Their freedom a joke, (which it *is*, you know, DOLLY,)
"There's none," said his Lordship, "if *I* may be judge,
Half so fit for this great undertaking as FUDGE!"

The matter's soon settled — Pa flies to *the Row*
(The *first* stage your tourists now usually go),

[1] To commemorate the landing of Louis le Désiré from England, the impression of his foot is marked out on the pier at Calais, and a pillar with an inscription raised opposite to the spot.

[2] Ci-git la jambe de, &c. &c.

Settles all for his quarto—advertisements, praises—
Starts post from the door, with his tablets—French phrases —
"Scott's Visit," of course — in short, ev'ry thing *he* has
An author can want, except words and ideas : —
And, lo ! the first thing, in the spring of the year,
Is Phil. Fudge at the front of a Quarto, my dear !

But, bless me, my paper's near out, so I'd better
Draw fast to a close: — this exceeding long letter
You owe to a *déjeûner à la fourchette*,
Which Bobby *would* have, and is hard at it yet. —
What's next? oh, the tutor, the last of the party,
Young Connor:—they say he's so like Bonaparte,
His nose and his chin — which Papa rather dreads,
As the Bourbons, you know, are suppressing all heads
That resemble old Nap's, and who knows but their honours
May think, in their fright, of suppressing poor Connor's ?
Au reste (as we say), the young lad's well enough,
Only talks much of Athens, Rome, virtue, and stuff ;
A third cousin of ours, by the way — poor as Job
(Though of royal descent by the side of Mamma),
And for charity made private tutor to Bob ; —
Entre nous, too, a Papist — how lib'ral of Pa !

This is all, dear, — forgive me for breaking off thus,
But Bob's *déjeûner*'s done, and Papa's in a fuss.
B. F.

P. S.

How provoking of Pa ! he will not let me stop
Just to run in and rummage some milliner's shop ;
And my *début* in Paris, I blush to think on it,
Must now, Doll, be made in a hideous low bonnet.
But Paris, dear Paris ! — oh, *there* will be joy,
And romance, and high bonnets, and Madame Le Roi ! [1]

LETTER II.

FROM PHIL. FUDGE, ESQ. TO THE LORD VISCOUNT C—ST—R—GH.

Paris.

At length, my Lord, I have the bliss
To date to you a line from this
"Demoraliz'd" metropolis ;
Where, by plebeians low and scurvy,
The throne was turn'd quite topsy-turvy,
And Kingship, tumbled from its seat,
"Stood prostrate" at the people's feet ;
Where (still to use your Lordship's tropes)
The *level* of obedience *slopes*
Upward and downward, as the *stream*
Of *hydra* faction *kicks the beam* ! [2]
Where the poor Palace changes masters
Quicker than a snake its skin,
And Louis is roll'd out on castors,
While Boney's borne on shoulders in : —
But where, in every change, no doubt,
One special good your Lordship traces, —
That 'tis the *Kings* alone turn out,
The *Ministers* still keep their places.

How oft, dear Viscount C———gh,
I've thought of thee upon the way,
As in my *job* (what place could be
More apt to wake a thought of thee ?) —
Or, oftener far, when gravely sitting
Upon my dicky, (as is fitting
For him who writes a Tour, that he
May more of men and manners see,)
I've thought of thee and of thy glories,
Thou guest of Kings, and King of Tories !
Reflecting how thy fame has grown
And spread, beyond man's usual share,
At home, abroad, till thou art known,
Like Major Semple, every where !
And marv'lling with what powers of breath
Your Lordship, having speech'd to death
Some hundreds of your fellow-men,
Next speech'd to Sov'reigns' ears, — and when
All Sov'reigns else were doz'd, at last
Speech'd down the Sov'reign [3] of Belfast.
Oh ! mid the praises and the trophies
Thou gain'st from Morosophs and Sophis;

[1] A celebrated mantua-maker in Paris.

[2] This excellent imitation of the noble Lord's style shows how deeply Mr. Fudge must have studied his great original. Irish oratory, indeed, abounds with such startling peculiarities. Thus the eloquent Counsellor B———, in describing some hypocritical pretender to charity, said, "He put his hand in his breeches-pocket, like a crocodile, and," &c. &c.

[3] The title of the chief magistrate of Belfast, before whom his Lordship (with the "studium immane loquendi" attributed by Ovid to that chattering and rapacious class of birds, the pies) delivered sundry long and self-gratulatory orations, on his return from the Continent. It was at one of these Irish dinners that his gallant brother, Lord S., proposed the health of "The best cavalry officer in Europe — the Regent !"

Mid all the tributes to thy fame,
There's *one* thou should'st be chiefly pleas'd at—
That Ireland gives her snuff thy name,
And C———GH's the thing now sneez'd at!

But hold, my pen!—a truce to praising—
Though ev'n your Lordship will allow
The theme's temptations are amazing;
But time and ink run short, and now,
(As *thou* wouldst say, my guide and teacher
In these gay metaphoric fringes,
I must *embark* into the *feature*
On which this letter chiefly *hinges*;)—[1]
My Book, the Book that is to prove—
And *will*, (so help ye Sprites above,
That sit on clouds, as grave as judges,
Watching the labours of the FUDGES!)
Will prove that all the world, at present,
Is in a state extremely pleasant;
That Europe—thanks to royal swords
And bay'nets, and the Duke commanding—
Enjoys a peace which, like the Lord's,
Passeth all human understanding:
That France prefers her go-cart King
To such a coward scamp as BONEY;
Though round, with each a leading-string,
There standeth many a Royal crony,
For fear the chubby, tott'ring thing
Should fall, if left there *loney-poney*;—
That England, too, the more her debts,
The more she spends, the richer gets;
And that the Irish, grateful nation!
Remember when by *thee* reign'd over,
And bless thee for their flagellation,
As HELOISA did her lover!—[2]
That Poland, left for Russia's lunch
Upon the side-board, snug reposes:
While Saxony's as pleas'd as Punch,
And Norway "on a bed of roses!"
That, as for some few million souls,
Transferr'd by contract, bless the clods!
If half were strangled—Spaniards, Poles,
And Frenchmen—'twouldn't make much odds,
So Europe's goodly Royal ones,
Sit easy on their sacred thrones;
So FERDINAND embroiders gaily,[3]
And LOUIS eats his *salmi*[4], daily;

So time is left to Emperor SANDY
To be *half* Cæsar and *half* Dandy;
And G——GE the R—G—T (who'd forget
That doughtiest chieftain of the set?)
Hath wherewithal for trinkets new,
For dragons, after Chinese models,
And chambers where Duke Ho and Soo,
Might come and nine times knock their noddles!—
All this my Quarto 'll prove—much more
Than Quarto ever prov'd before:
In reas'ning with the *Post* I'll vie,
My facts the *Courier* shall supply,
My jokes V—NS—T, P—LE my sense,
And thou, sweet Lord, my eloquence!

My Journal, penn'd by fits and starts,
On BIDDY's back or BOBBY's shoulder,
(My son, my Lord, a youth of parts,
Who longs to be a small place-holder,)
Is—though *I* say't, that shouldn't say—
Extremely good; and, by the way,
One extract from it—*only* one—
To show its spirit, and I've done.
"*Jul. thirty-first.*—Went, after snack,
"To the Cathedral of St. Denny;
"Sigh'd o'er the Kings of ages back,
"And—gave the old Concierge a penny.
"(*Mem.*—Must see *Rheims*, much fam'd, 'tis said,
"For making Kings and gingerbread.)
"Was shown the tomb where lay, so stately,
"A little Bourbon, buried lately,
"Thrice high and puissant, we were told,
"Though only twenty-four hours old![5]
"Hear this, thought I, ye Jacobins:
"Ye Burdetts, tremble in your skins!
"If Royalty, but ag'd a day,
"Can boast such high and puissant sway,
"What impious hand its pow'r would fix,
"Full fledg'd and wigg'd[6] at fifty-six!"

The argument's quite new, you see,
And proves exactly Q. E. D.
So now, with duty to the R—G—T,
I am, dear Lord,
Your most obedient,
P. F.

[1] Verbatim from one of the noble Viscount's Speeches—"And now, Sir, I must embark into the feature on which this question chiefly hinges."

[2] See her Letters.

[3] It would be an edifying thing to write a history of the private amusements of sovereigns, tracing them down from the fly-sticking of Domitian, the mole-catching of Artabanus, the hog-mimicking of Parmenides, the horse-currying of Aretas, to the petticoat-embroidering of Ferdinand, and the patience-playing of the P——e R——t!

[4] Ὀψα τι, οἷα ἔδουσι διοτρεφεῖς βασιλῆες.
HOMER, *Odyss.* 3.

[5] So described on the coffin: "très-haute et puissante Princesse, agée d'un jour."

[6] There is a fulness and breadth in this portrait of Royalty, which reminds us of what Pliny says, in speaking of Trajan's great qualities:—"nonne longè *lateque* Principem ostentant?"

Hôtel Breteuil, Rue Rivoli.
Neat lodgings — rather dear for me;
But BIDDY said she thought 'twould look
Genteeler thus to date my Book;
And BIDDY's right — besides, it curries
Some favour with our friends at MURRAY's,
Who scorn what any man can say,
That dates from Rue St.-Honoré!

LETTER III.

FROM MR. BOB FUDGE TO RICHARD ———, ESQ.

OH Dick! you may talk of your writing and reading,
Your Logic and Greek, but there's nothing like feeding;
And *this* is the place for it, DICKY, you dog,
Of all places on earth — the head-quarters of Prog!
Talk of England — her fam'd Magna Charta, I swear, is
A humbug, a flam, to the Carte[2] at old VÉRY's;
And as for your Juries — *who* would not set o'er 'em
A Jury of Tasters[3], with woodcocks before 'em?
Give CARTWRIGHT his Parliaments, fresh every year;
But those friends of *short Commons* would never do here;
And, let ROMILLY speak as he will on the question,
No Digest of Law's like the laws of digestion!

By the by, DICK, *I* fatten — but *n'importe* for that,
'Tis the mode — your Legitimates always get fat.
There's the R — G — T, there's LOUIS — and BONEY tried too,
But, though somewhat imperial in paunch, 'twouldn't do: —
He improv'd, indeed, much in this point, when he wed,
But he ne'er grew right royally fat *in the head.*

DICK, DICK, what a place is this Paris! — but stay —
As my raptures may bore you, I'll just sketch a Day,
As we pass it, myself and some comrades I've got,
All thorough-bred *Gnostics*, who know what is what.

After dreaming some hours of the land of Cocaigne,[4]
That Elysium of all that is *friand* and nice,
Where for hail they have *bon-bons*, and claret for rain,
And the skaiters in winter show off on *cream*-ice;
Where so ready all nature its cookery yields,
Macaroni au parmesan grows in the fields;
Little birds fly about with the true pheasant taint,
And the geese are all born with a liver complaint![5]
I rise — put on neck-cloth — stiff, tight, as can be —
For a lad who *goes into the world*, DICK, like me,
Should have his neck tied up, you know — there's no doubt of it —
Almost as tight as *some* lads who *go out of it.*
With whiskers well oil'd, and with boots that "hold up
"The mirror to nature" — so bright you could sup
Off the leather like china; with coat, too, that draws
On the tailor, who suffers, a martyr's applause!
With head bridled up, like a four-in-hand leader,
And stays — devil's in them — too tight for a feeder,
I strut to the old Café Hardy, which yet
Beats the field at a *déjeûner à la fourchette.*
There, DICK, what a breakfast! oh, not like your ghost
Of a breakfast in England, your curst tea and toast;[6]

[1] See the Quarterly Review for May, 1816, where Mr. Hobhouse is accused of having written his book "in a back street of the French capital."

[2] The Bill of Fare. — Véry, a well-known Restaurateur.

[3] Mr. Bob alludes particularly, I presume, to the famous Jury Dégustateur, which used to assemble at the Hôtel of M. Grimod de la Reynière, and of which this modern Archestratus has given an account in his Almanach des Gourmands, cinquième année, p. 78.

[4] The fairy-land of cookery and *gourmandise*: "Pays, où le ciel offre les viandes toutes cuites, et où, comme on parle, les alouettes tombent toutes roties. Du Latin, coquère."— *Duchat.*

[5] The process by which the liver of the unfortunate goose is enlarged, in order to produce that richest of all dainties, the *foie gras*, of which such renowned *pâtés* are made at Strasbourg and Toulouse, is thus described in the *Cours Gastronomique*: — "On déplume l'estomac des oies; on attache ensuite ces animaux aux chenets d'une cheminée, et on les nourrit devant le feu. La captivité et la chaleur donnent à ces volatiles une maladie hépatique, qui fait gonfler leur foie," &c. p. 206.

[6] Is Mr. Bob aware that his contempt for *tea* renders him liable to a charge of *atheism?* Such, at least, is the opinion cited in *Christian. Falster. Amœnitat. Philog.* — "Atheum interpretabatur hominem ad herbâ The aversum." He would not, I think, have been so irreverent to this beverage of scholars, if he had read *Peter Petit's* Poem in praise of Tea, addressed to the learned *Huet* — or the Epigraphe which *Pechlinus* wrote for an altar he meant to dedicate to this herb

But a side-board, you dog, where one's eye roves about,
Like a Turk's in the Haram, and thence singles out
One *pâté* of larks, just to tune up the throat,
One's small limbs of chickens, done *en papillote*,
One's erudite cutlets, drest all ways but plain,
Or one's kidneys—imagine, DICK—done with champagne!
Then, some glasses of *Beaune*, to dilute—or, mayhap,
Chambertin[1], which you know's the pet tipple of NAP,
And which Dad, by the by, that legitimate stickler,
Much scruples to taste, but *I*'m not so partic'lar.—
Your coffee comes next, by prescription: and then, DICK, 's
The coffee's ne'er-failing and glorious appendix,
(If books had but such, my old Grecian, depend on't,
I'd swallow ev'n W—TK—NS', for sake of the end on't,)
A neat glass of *parfait-amour*, which one sips
Just as if bottled velvet[2] tipp'd over one's lips.
This repast being ended, and *paid for*—(how odd!
Till a man's us'd to paying, there's something so queer in't!)—
The sun now well out, and the girls all abroad,
And the world enough air'd for us, Nobs, to appear in't,
We lounge up the Boulevards, where—oh, DICK, the phyzzes,
The turn-outs, we meet—what a nation of quizzes!
Here toddles along some old figure of fun,
With a coat you might date Anno Domini 1.;
A lac'd hat, worsted stockings, and—noble old soul!
A fine ribbon and cross in his best button-hole;
Just such as our PR——CE, who nor reason nor fun dreads,
Inflicts, without ev'n a court-martial, on hundreds.[3]
Here trips a *grisette*, with a fond, roguish eye,
(Rather eatable things these *grisettes* by the by);
And there an old *demoiselle*, almost as fond,
In a silk that has stood since the time of the Fronde.

There goes a French Dandy—ah, DICK! unlike some ones
We've seen about WHITE's—the Mounseers are but rum ones;
Such hats!—fit for monkeys—I'd back Mrs. DRAPER
To cut neater weather-boards out of brown paper:
And coats—how I wish, if it wouldn't distress 'em,
They'd club for old BR—MM—L, from Calais, to dress 'em!
The collar sticks out from the neck such a space,
That you'd swear 'twas the plan of this head-lopping nation,
To leave there behind them a snug little place
For the head to drop into, on decapitation.
In short, what with mountebanks, counts, and friseurs,
Some mummers by trade, and the rest amateurs—
What with captains in new jockey-boots and silk breeches,
Old dustmen with swinging great opera-hats,
And shoeblacks reclining by statues in niches,
There never was seen such a race of Jack Sprats!

From the Boulevards—but hearken!—yes—as I'm a sinner,
The clock is just striking the half-hour to dinner:
So *no* more at present—short time for adorning—
My Day must be finish'd some other fine morning.
Now, hey for old BEAUVILLIERS'[4] larder, my boy!
And, once *there*, if the Goddess of Beauty and Joy
Were to write "Come and kiss me, dear BOB!"
I'd not budge—
Not a step, DICK. as sure as my name is

R. FUDGE.

—or the Anacreontics of *Peter Francius*, in which he calls Tea

Θεαν, θεην, θεαιναν.

The following passage from one of these Anacreontics will, I have no doubt, be gratifying to all true Theists.

Θεοις, θεων τε πατρι,
Εν χρυσεοις σκυφοισι
Διδοι το νεκταρ Ἡβη.
Σε μοι διακονοιντο
Σκυφοις εν μυρρινοισι,
Τῳ καλλεϊ πρεπουσαι
Καλαις χερεσσι κουραι.

Which may be thus translated:—

Yes, let Hebe, ever young,
High in heav'n her nectar hold,
And to Jove's immortal throng
Pour the tide in cups of gold—
I'll not envy heaven's Princes,
While, with snowy hands, for me,
KATE the china tea-cup rinses,
And pours out her best Bohea!

[1] The favourite wine of Napoleon.

[2] *Velours en bouteille.*

[3] It was said by Wicquefort, more than a hundred years ago, "Le Roi d'Angleterre fait seul plus de chevaliers que tous les autres Rois de la Chrétienté ensemble."—What would he say now?

[4] A celebrated restaurateur.

LETTER IV.

FROM PHELIM CONNOR TO ——.

"RETURN!"—no, never, while the with'ring hand
Of bigot power is on that hapless land;
While, for the faith my fathers held to God,
Ev'n in the fields where free those fathers trod,
I am proscrib'd, and—like the spot left bare
In Israel's halls, to tell the proud and fair
Amidst their mirth, that Slav'ry had been there—[1]
On all I love, home, parents, friends, I trace
The mournful mark of bondage and disgrace!
No!—let *them* stay, who in their country's pangs
See nought but food for factions and harangues;
Who yearly kneel before their masters' doors,
And hawk their wrongs, as beggars do their sores:
Still let your[2] * * * *
* * * * *
Still hope and suffer, all who can!—but I,
Who durst not hope, and cannot bear, must fly.

But whither?—every where the scourge pursues—
Turn where he will, the wretched wand'rer views,
In the bright, broken hopes of all his race,
Countless reflections of the' Oppressor's face.
Every where gallant hearts, and spirits true,
Are serv'd up victims to the vile and few;
While E—gl—d, every where—the general foe
Of Truth and Freedom, wheresoe'er they glow—
Is first, when tyrants strike, to aid the blow.

Oh, E—gl—d! could such poor revenge atone
For wrongs, that well might claim the deadliest one;
Were it a vengeance, sweet enough to sate
The wretch who flies from thy intolerant hate,
To hear his curses on such barb'rous sway
Echoed, where'er he bends his cheerless way;—
Could *this* content him, every lip he meets
Teems for his vengeance with such poisonous sweets;
Were *this* his lux'ry, never is thy name
Pronounc'd, but he doth banquet on thy shame;
Hears maledictions ring from every side
Upon that grasping power, that selfish pride,
Which vaunts its own, and scorns all rights beside;
That low and desp'rate envy, which to blast
A neighbour's blessings, risks the few thou hast;—
That monster, Self, too gross to be conceal'd,
Which ever lurks behind thy proffer'd shield;—
That faithless craft, which, in thy hour of need,
Can court the slave, can swear he shall be freed,
Yet basely spurns him, when thy point is gain'd,
Back to his masters, ready gagg'd and chain'd!
Worthy associate of that band of Kings,
That royal, rav'ning flock, whose vampire wings
O'er sleeping Europe treacherously brood,
And fan her into dreams of promis'd good,
Of hope, of freedom—but to drain her blood!
If *thus* to hear thee branded be a bliss
That Vengeance loves, there's yet more sweet than this,
That 'twas an Irish head, an Irish heart,
Made thee the fall'n and tarnish'd thing thou art;
That, as the centaur[3] gave the' infected vest
In which he died, to rack his conqu'ror's breast,
We sent thee C———GH:—as heaps of dead
Have slain their slayers by the pest they spread,
So hath our land breath'd out, thy fame to dim,
Thy strength to waste, and rot thee, soul and limb,
Her worst infections all condens'd in him!
* * * * *
When will the world shake off such yokes? oh, when
Will that redeeming day shine out on men,
That shall behold them rise, erect and free
As Heav'n and Nature meant mankind should be!
When Reason shall no longer blindly bow
To the vile pagod things, that o'er her brow,
Like him of Jaghernaut, drive trampling now;
Nor Conquest dare to desolate God's earth;
Nor drunken Vict'ry, with a NERO's mirth,
Strike her lewd harp amidst a people's groans;—
But, built on love, the world's exalted thrones
Shall to the virtuous and the wise be given—
Those bright, those sole Legitimates of Heaven!

When will this be?—or, oh! is it, in truth,
But one of those sweet, day-break dreams of youth,
In which the Soul, as round her morning springs,
'Twixt sleep and waking, sees such dazzling things!
And must the hope, as vain as it is bright,
Be all resign'd?—and are *they* only right,
Who say this world of thinking souls was made
To be by Kings partition'd, truck'd, and weigh'd
In scales that, ever since the world begun,
Have counted millions but as dust to one?

[1] "They used to leave a yard square of the wall of the house unplastered, on which they wrote, in large letters, either the fore-mentioned verse of the Psalmist ('If I forget thee, O Jerusalem,' &c.) or the words—'The memory of the desolation.'"—*Leo of Modena.*

[2] I have thought it prudent to omit some parts of Mr. Phelim Connor's letter. He is evidently an intemperate young man, and has associated with his cousin the Fudges, to very little purpose.

[3] Membra et Herculeos toros
Urit lues Nessea. . . . .
Ille, ille victor vincitur.
SENEC. *Hercul. Œt.*

Are *they* the only wise, who laugh to scorn
The rights, the freedom to which man was born?
Who * * * * *
* * * * * *
Who, proud to kiss each sep'rate rod of pow'r,
Bless, while he reigns, the minion of the hour;
Worship each would-be God, that o'er them moves,
And take the thund'ring of his brass for JOVE'S!
If *this* be wisdom, then farewell, my books,
Farewell, ye shrines of old, ye classic brooks,
Which fed my soul with currents, pure and fair,
Of living Truth, that now must stagnate there!—
Instead of themes that touch the lyre with light,
Instead of Greece, and her immortal fight
For Liberty, which once awak'd my strings,
Welcome the Grand Conspiracy of Kings,
The High Legitimates, the Holy Band,
Who, bolder ev'n than He of Sparta's land,
Against whole millions, panting to be free,
Would guard the pass of right-line tyranny.
Instead of him, the' Athenian bard, whose blade
Had stood the onset which his pen portray'd,
Welcome * * * * *
* * * * * * *
And, 'stead of ARISTIDES—woe the day
Such names should mingle!—welcome C———gh!

Here break we off, at this unhallow'd name,[1]
Like priests of old, when words ill-omen'd came.
My next shall tell thee, bitterly shall tell,
Thoughts that * * * * *
* * * * * * *
Thoughts that—could patience hold—'twere wiser far
To leave still hid and burning where they are.

LETTER V.

FROM MISS BIDDY FUDGE TO MISS DOROTHY ——.

WHAT a time since I wrote!—I'm a sad, naughty girl—
For, though, like a tee-totum, I'm all in a twirl;—
Yet ev'n (as you wittily say) a tee-totum
Between all its twirls gives a *letter* to note 'em.

But, Lord, such a place! and then, DOLLY, my dresses,
My gowns, so divine!—there's no language expresses,
Except just the *two* words "superbe," "magnifique,"
The trimmings of that which I had home last week!
It is call'd—I forget—*à la*—something which sounded
Like *alicampane*—but, in truth, I'm confounded
And bother'd, my dear, 'twixt that troublesome boy's
(BOB'S) cookery language, and Madame LE ROI'S:
What with fillets of roses, and fillets of veal,
Things *garni* with lace, and things *garni* with eel,
One's hair and one's cutlets both *en papillote*,
And a thousand more things I shall ne'er have by rote,
I can scarce tell the diff'rence, at least as to phrase,
Between beef *à la Psyché* and curls *à la braise*.—
But, in short, dear, I'm trick'd out quite à la Française,
With my bonnet—so beautiful!—high up and poking,
Like things that are put to keep chimnies from smoking.

Where *shall* I begin with the endless delights
Of this Eden of milliners, monkies, and sights—
This dear busy place, where there's nothing transacting
But dressing and dinnering, dancing and acting?
Imprimis, the Opera—mercy, my ears!
Brother BOBBY'S remark, t'other night, was a true one;—
"This *must* be the music," said he, "of the *spears*,
"For I'm curst if each note of it doesn't run through one!"
Pa says (and you know, love, his Book's to make out
'Twas the Jacobins brought ev'ry mischief about)
That this passion for roaring has come in of late,
Since the rabble all tried for a *voice* in the State.—
What a frightful idea, one's mind to o'erwhelm!
What a chorus, dear DOLLY, would soon be let loose of it,
If, when of age, every man in the realm
Had a voice like old LAÏS[2], and chose to make use of it!

Tun' trium literarum homo
Me vituperas? Fur.[a]
PLAUTUS, *Aulular.* Act. ii. Scene 4.

[1] The late Lord C. of Ireland had a curious theory about names:—he held that every man with *three* names was a jacobin. His instances in Ireland were numerous:—viz. Archibald Hamilton Rowan, Theobald Wolfe Tone, James Napper Tandy, John Philpot Curran, &c. &c.; and in England, he produced as examples Charles James Fox, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, John Horne Tooke, Francis Burdett Jones, &c. &c.
The Romans called a thief "homo trium literarum."

[2] The oldest, most celebrated, and most noisy of the singers at the French Opera.

[a] *Dissaldens* supposes this word to be a *glossema*:—that is, he thinks "Fur" has made his escape from the margin into the text.

No—never was known in this riotous sphere
Such a breach of the peace as their singing, my dear.
So bad too, you'd swear that the God of both arts,
Of Music and Physic, had taken a frolic
For setting a loud fit of asthma in parts,
And composing a fine rumbling base to a cholic!

But, the dancing—*ah! parlez-moi*, DOLLY, *de ça*—
There, *indeed*, is a treat that charms all but Papa.
Such beauty—such grace—oh ye sylphs of romance!
Fly, fly to TITANIA, and ask her if *she* has
One light-footed nymph in her train, that can dance
Like divine BIGOTTINI and sweet FANNY BIAS!
FANNY BIAS in FLORA—dear creature!—you'd swear,
When her delicate feet in the dance twinkle round,
That her steps are of light, that her home is the air,
And she only *par complaisance* touches the ground.
And when BIGOTTINI in PSYCHÉ dishevels
Her black flowing hair, and by dæmons is driven,
Oh! who does not envy those rude little devils,
That hold her and hug her, and keep her from heaven?
Then, the music—so softly its cadences die,
So divinely—oh, DOLLY! between you and I,
It's as well for my peace that there's nobody nigh
To make love to me then—*you've* a soul, and can judge
What a crisis 'twould be for your friend BIDDY FUDGE!

The next place (which BOBBY has near lost his heart in)
They call it the Play-house—I think—of St. Martin;[1]
Quite charming—and *very* religious—what folly
To say that the French are not pious, dear DOLLY,
When here one beholds, so correctly and rightly,
The Testament turn'd into melo-drames nightly;[2]
And, doubtless, so fond they're of scriptural facts,
They will soon get the Pentateuch up in five acts.

Here DANIEL, in pantomime[3], bids bold defiance
To NEBUCHADNEZZAR and all his stuff'd lions,
While pretty young Israelites dance round the Prophet,
In very thin clothing, and *but* little of it;—
Here BÉGRAND[4], who shines in this scriptural path,
As the lovely SUZANNA, without ev'n a relic
Of drapery round her, comes out of the bath
In a manner that, BOB says, is quite *Ève-angelic!*
But in short, dear, 'twould take me a month to recite
All the exquisite places we're at, day and night;
And, besides, ere I finish, I think you'll be glad
Just to hear one delightful adventure I've had.

Last night, at the Beaujon[5], a place where—I doubt
If its charms I can paint—there are cars, that set out
From a lighted pavilion, high up in the air,
And rattle you down DOLL—you hardly know where.
These vehicles, mind me, in which you go through
This delightfully dangerous journey, hold *two*.
Some cavalier asks, with humility, whether
You'll venture down *with* him—you smile—'tis a match;
In an instant you're seated, and down both together
Go thund'ring, as if you went post to old scratch![6]
Well, it was but last night, as I stood and remark'd
On the looks and odd ways of the girls who embark'd,
The impatience of some for the perilous flight,
The forc'd giggle of others, 'twixt pleasure and fright,—
That there came up—imagine, dear DOLL, if you can
A fine sallow, sublime, sort of Werter-fac'd man,
With mustachios that gave (what we read of so oft)
The dear Corsair expression, half savage, half soft,
As Hyænas in love may be fancied to look, or
A something between ABELARD and old BLUCHER!
Up he came, DOLL, to me, and, uncov'ring his head,
(Rather bald, but so warlike!) in bad English said,

[1] The Théâtre de la Porte St.-Martin, which was built when the Opera House in the Palais Royal was burnt down, in 1781.—A few days after this dreadful fire, which lasted more than a week, and in which several persons perished, the Parisian *élégantes* displayed flame-coloured dresses, "couleur de feu d'Opéra!"—*Dulaure, Curiosités de Paris.*

[2] "The Old Testament," says the theatrical Critic in the Gazette de France, "is a mine of gold for the managers of our small play-houses. A multitude crowd round the Théâtre de la Gaieté every evening to see the Passage of the Red Sea."
In the play-bill of one of these sacred melo-drames at Vienna, we find "The Voice of G—d, by M. Schwartz."

[3] A piece very popular last year, called "Daniel, ou La Fosse aux Lions." The following scene will give an idea of the daring sublimity of these Scriptural pantomimes. "*Scène* 20.—La fournaise devient un berceau de nuages azurés, au fond duquel est un groupe de nuages plus lumineux, et au milieu 'Jehovah' au centre d'un cercle de rayons brillans, qui annonce la présence de l'E'ternel."

[4] Madame Bégrand, a finely-formed woman, who acts in "Susanna and the Elders,"—"L'Amour et la Folie," &c., &c.

[5] The Promenades Aériennes, or French Mountains.—See a description of this singular and fantastic place of amusement in a pamphlet, truly worthy of it, by "F. F. Cotterel Médecin, Docteur de la Faculté de Paris," &c. &c.

[6] According to Dr. Cotterel the cars go at the rate of forty-eight miles an hour.

"Ah! my dear—if Ma'mselle vil be so very good—
Just for von littel course"—though I scarce understood
What he wish'd me to do, I said, thank him, I would.
Off we set—and, though faith, dear, I hardly knew whether
My head or my heels were the uppermost then,
For 'twas like heav'n and earth, DOLLY, coming together,—
Yet, spite of the danger, we dar'd it again.
And oh! as I gaz'd on the features and air
Of the man, who for me all this peril defied,
I could fancy almost he and I were a pair
Of unhappy young lovers, who thus, side by side,
Were taking, instead of rope, pistol, or dagger, a
Desperate dash down the falls of Niagara!

This achiev'd, through the gardens[1] we saunter'd about,
Saw the fire-works, exclaim'd "magnifique!" at each cracker,
And, when 'twas all o'er, the dear man saw us out
With the air I *will* say, of a Prince, to our *fiacre*.

Now, hear me—this stranger—it may be mere folly—
But *who* do you think we all think it is, Dolly?
Why, bless you, no less than the great King of Prussia,
Who's here now incog.[2]—he, who made such a fuss, you
Remember, in London, with BLUCHER and PLATOFF,
When SAL was near kissing old BLUCHER's cravat off!
Pa says he's come here to look after his money,
(Not taking things now as he us'd under BONEY,)
Which suits with our friend, for BOB saw him, he swore,
Looking sharp to the silver receiv'd at the door.
Besides, too, they say that his grief for his Queen
(Which was plain in this sweet fellow's face to be seen)
Requires such a stimulant dose as this car is,
Us'd three times a day with young ladies in Paris.
Some Doctor, indeed, has declar'd that such grief
Should—unless 'twould to utter despairing its folly push—
Fly to the Beaujon, and there seek relief
By rattling, as BOB says, "like shot through a holly-bush."

I must now bid adieu;—only think, DOLLY, think
If this *should* be the King—I have scarce slept a wink
With imagining how it will sound in the papers
And how all the Misses my good luck will grudge,
When they read that Count RUPPIN, to drive away vapours,
Has gone down the Beaujon with Miss BIDDY FUDGE.

Nota Bene.—Papa's almost certain 'tis he—
For he knows the Legitimate cut, and could see,
In the way he went poising and manag'd to tower
So erect in the car, the true *Balance of Power*.

LETTER VI.

FROM PHIL. FUDGE, ESQ. TO HIS BROTHER TIM FUDGE, ESQ. BARRISTER AT LAW.

YOURS of the 12th receiv'd just now—
Thanks for the hint, my trusty brother!
'Tis truly pleasing to see how
We, FUDGES, stand by one another.
But never fear—I know my chap,
And he knows *me* too—*verbum sap.*
My Lord and I are kindred spirits,
Like in our ways as two young ferrets;
Both fashion'd, as that supple race is,
To twist into all sorts of places;—
Creatures lengthy, lean, and hungering,
Fond of blood and *burrow*-mongering.

As to my Book in 91,
Call'd "Down with Kings, or, Who'd have thought it?"
Bless you, the Book's long dead and gone,—
Not ev'n the' Attorney-General bought it.
And, though some few seditious tricks
I play'd in 95 and 6,
As you remind me in your letter,
His Lordship likes me all the better;—
We proselytes, that come with news full,
Are, as he says, so vastly useful!

[1] In the Café attached to these gardens there are to be (as Doctor Cotterel informs us) "douze nègres, très-alertes, qui contrasteront par l'ébène de leur peau avec le teint de lis et de roses de nos belles. Les glaces et les sorbets, servis par une main bien noire, fera davantage ressortir l'albâtre des bras arrondis de celles-ci."—p. 22.

[2] His Majesty, who was at Paris under the travelling name of Count Ruppin, is known to have gone down the Beaujon very frequently.

Reynolds and I — (you know Tom Reynolds —
Drinks his claret, keeps his chaise —
Lucky the dog that first unkennels
Traitors and Luddites now-a-days;
Or who can help to *bag* a few,
When S—d——th wants a death or two;)
Reynolds and I, and some few more,
All men, like us, of *information*,
Friends, whom his Lordship keeps in store,
As *under*-saviours of the nation —[1]
Have form'd a Club this season, where
His Lordship sometimes takes the chair,
And gives us many a bright oration
In praise of our sublime vocation;
Tracing it up to great King Midas,
Who, though in fable typified as
A royal Ass, by grace divine
And right of ears, most asinine,
Was yet no more, in fact historical,
Than an exceeding well-bred tyrant;
And these, his *ears*, but allegorical,
Meaning Informers, kept at high rent —[2]
Gem'men, who touch'd the Treasury glist'ners,
Like us, for being trusty list'ners;
And picking up each tale and fragment,
For royal Midas's Green Bag meant.
"And wherefore," said this best of Peers,
"Should not the R—g—t too have ears,[3]
"To reach as far, as long and wide as
"Those of his model, good King Midas?"
This speech was thought extremely good,
And (rare for him) was understood —
Instant we drank "The R—g—t's Ears,"
With three times three illustrious cheers,
Which made the room resound like thunder —
"The R—g—t's Ears, and may he ne'er
"From foolish shame, like Midas, wear
"Old paltry *wigs* to keep them under!"[4]
This touch at our old friends, the Whigs,
Made us as merry all as grigs.
In short (I'll thank you not to mention
These things again), we get on gaily;
And, thanks to pension and Suspension,
Our little Club increases daily.

Castles, and Oliver, and such,
Who don't as yet full salary touch,
Nor keep their chaise and pair, nor buy
Houses and lands, like Tom and I,
Of course don't rank with us, *salvators*,[5]
But merely serve the Club as waiters.
Like Knights, too, we've our *collar* days,
(For *us*, I own, an awkward phrase,)
When, in our new costume adorn'd, —
The R—g—t's buff-and-blue coats *turn'd* —
We have the honour to give dinners
To the chief Rats in upper stations;[6]
Your W——ys, V——ns, — half-fledg'd sinners,
Who shame us by their imitations;
Who turn, 'tis true — but what of that?
Give me the useful *peaching* Rat;
Not things as mute as Punch, when bought,
Whose wooden heads are all they've brought;
Who, false enough to shirk their friends,
But too faint-hearted to betray,
Are, after all their twists and bends,
But souls in Limbo, damn'd half way.
No, no, we nobler vermin are
A *genus* useful as we're rare;
'Midst all the things miraculous
Of which your natural histories brag,
The rarest must be Rats like us,
Who *let the cat out of the bag*.
Yet still these Tyros in the cause
Deserve, I own, no small applause;
And they're by us receiv'd and treated
With all due honours — only seated
In the' inverse scale of their reward,
The merely *promis'd* next my Lord;
Small pensions then, and so on, down,
Rat after rat, they graduate
Through job, red ribbon, and silk gown,
To Chanc'llorship and Marquisate.
This serves to nurse the ratting spirit;
The less the bribe the more the merit.

Our music's good, you may be sure;
My Lord, you know, 's an amateur[7] —

[1] Lord C.'s tribute to the character of his friend, Mr. Reynolds, will long be remembered with equal credit to both.

[2] This interpretation of the fable of Midas's ears seems the most probable of any, and is thus stated in Hoffmann: — "Hâc allegoriâ significatum, Midam, utpote tyrannum, subauscultatores dimittere solitum, per quos, quæcunque per omnem regionem vel fierent, vel dicerentur, cognosceret, nimirum illis utens aurium vice."

[3] Brossette, in a note on this line of Boileau,

"Midas, le Roi Midas, a des oreilles d'Ane,"

tells us, that "M. Perrault le Médecin voulut faire à notre auteur un crime d'état de ce vers, comme d'une maligne allusion au Roi." I trust, however, that no one will suspect the line in the text of any such indecorous allusion.

[4] It was not under wigs, but tiaras, that King Midas endeavoured to conceal these appendages:

Tempora purpureis tentat velare tiaris. — Ovid.

The Noble Giver of the toast, however, had evidently, with his usual clearness, confounded King Midas, Mr. Liston, and the P——e R—g—t together.

[5] Mr. Fudge and his friends ought to go by this name — as the man, who, some years since, saved the late Right Hon. George Rose from drowning, was ever after called *Salvator Rosa*.

[6] This intimacy between the Rats and Informers is just as it should be — "verè dulce sodalitium."

[7] His Lordship, during one of the busiest periods of his

Takes every part with perfect ease,
Though to the Base by nature suited;
And, form'd for all, as best may please,
For whips and bolts, or chords and keys,
Turns from his victims to his glees,
And has them both well *executed.*[1]
H——T——D, who, though no Rat himself,
Delights in all such liberal arts,
Drinks largely to the House of Guelph,
And superintends the *Corni* parts.
While C—NN—G[2], who'd be *first* by choice,
Consents to take an *under* voice;
And GR—V—S[3], who well that signal knows,
Watches the *Volti subitos.*[4]

In short, as I've already hinted,
We take, of late, prodigiously;
But as our Club is somewhat stinted
For *Gentlemen*, like TOM and me,
We'll take it kind if you'll provide
A few *Squireens*[5] from t'other side;—
Some of those loyal, cunning elves
(We often tell the tale with laughter),
Who us'd to hide the pikes themselves,
Then hang the fools who found them after.
I doubt not you could find us, too,
Some Orange Parsons that might do;
Among the rest, we've heard of one,
The Reverend—something—HAMILTON,
Who stuff'd a figure of himself
(Delicious thought!) and had it shot at,
To bring some Papists to the shelf,
That couldn't otherwise be got at—
If *he'll* but join the' Association,
We'll vote him in by acclamation.

And now, my brother, guide, and friend,
This somewhat tedious scrawl must end.
I've gone into this long detail,
Because I saw your nerves were shaken
With anxious fears lest I should fail
In this new, *loyal*, course I've taken.
But, bless your heart! you need not doubt—
We, FUDGES, know what we're about.
Look round, and say if you can see
A much more thriving family.

There's JACK, the Doctor—night and day
Hundreds of patients so besiege him,
You'd swear that all the rich and gay
Fell sick on purpose to oblige him.
And while they think, the precious ninnies,
He's counting o'er their pulse so steady,
The rogue but counts how many guineas
He's fobb'd, for that day's work, already.
I'll ne'er forget the' old maid's alarm,
When, feeling thus Miss Sukey Flirt, he
Said, as he dropp'd her shrivell'd arm,
"Damn'd bad this morning—only thirty!"

Your dowagers, too, every one,
So gen'rous are, when they call *him* in,
That he might now retire upon
The rheumatisms of three old women.
Then, whatsoe'er your ailments are,
He can so learnedly explain ye 'em—
Your cold, of course, is a *catarrh*,
Your headache is a *hemi-cranium:*—
His skill, too, in young ladies' lungs,
The grace with which, most mild of men,
He begs them to put out their tongues,
Then bids them—put them in again:
In short, there's nothing now like JACK!—
Take all your doctors great and small,
Of present times and ages back,
Dear Doctor FUDGE is worth them all.

So much for physic—then, in law too,
Counsellor TIM, to thee we bow;
Not one of us gives more eclat to
The' immortal name of FUDGE than thou.
Not to expatiate on the art
With which you play'd the patriot's part,
Till something good and snug should offer;—
Like one, who, by the way he acts
The' *enlight'ning* part of candle-snuffer,
The manager's keen eye attracts,
And is promoted thence by him
To strut in robes, like thee, my TIM!—
Who shall describe thy pow'rs of face,
Thy well-fee'd zeal in ev'ry case,
Or wrong or right—but ten times warmer
(As suits thy calling) in the former—

Ministerial career, took lessons three times a week from a celebrated music-master, in glee-singing.

[1] How amply these two propensities of the Noble Lord would have been gratified among that ancient people of Etruria, who, as Aristotle tells us, used to whip their slaves once a year to the sound of flutes!

[2] This Right Hon. Gentleman ought to give up his present alliance with Lord C., if upon no other principle than that which is inculcated in the following arrangement between two Ladies of Fashion:—

Says Clarinda, "though tears it may cost,
It is time we should part, my dear Sue;
For *your* character's totally lost,
And *I* have not sufficient for *two!*"

[3] The rapidity of this Noble Lord's transformation, at the same instant, into a Lord of the Bed-chamber and an opponent of the Catholic Claims, was truly miraculous.

[4] *Turn instantly*—a frequent direction in music-books.

[5] The Irish diminutive of *Squire.*

Thy glorious, lawyer-like delight
In puzzling all that's clear and right,
Which, though conspicuous in thy youth,
  Improves so with a wig and band on,
That all thy pride's to waylay Truth,
  And leave her not a leg to stand on.
Thy patent, prime, morality,—
  Thy cases, cited from the Bible—
Thy candour, when it falls to thee
  To help in trouncing for a libel;—
"God knows, I, from my soul, profess
  "To hate all bigots and benighters!
"God knows, I love, to ev'n excess,
"The sacred Freedom of the Press,
  "My only aim's to—crush the writers."
These are the virtues, TIM, that draw
  The briefs into thy bag so fast;
And these, oh TIM—if Law be Law—
  Will raise thee to the Bench at last.

I blush to see this letter's length—
  But 'twas my wish to prove to thee
How full of hope, and wealth, and strength,
  Are all our precious family.
And, should affairs go on as pleasant
As, thank the Fates, they do at present—
Should we but still enjoy the sway
Of S—DM—H and of C————GH,
I hope, ere long, to see the day
When England's wisest statesmen, judges,
Lawyers, peers, will all be—FUDGES!

Good-by—my paper's out so nearly,
I've only room for Yours sincerely.

LETTER VII.

FROM PHELIM CONNOR TO ———.

BEFORE we sketch the Present—let us cast
A few, short, rapid glances to the Past.

When he, who had defied all Europe's strength,
Beneath his own weak rashness sunk at length;—
When, loos'd, as if by magic, from a chain
That seem'd like Fate's, the world was free again,
And Europe saw, rejoicing in the sight,
The cause of Kings, *for once*, the cause of Right;—
Then was, indeed, an hour of joy to those
Who sigh'd for justice—liberty—repose,
And hop'd the fall of *one* great vulture's nest
Would ring its warning round, and scare the rest.
All then was bright with promise;—Kings began
To own a sympathy with suff'ring Man,
And Man was grateful; Patriots of the South
Caught wisdom from a Cossack Emperor's mouth,
And heard, like accents thaw'd in Northern air,
Unwonted words of freedom burst forth there!

Who did not hope, in that triumphant time,
When monarchs, after years of spoil and crime,
Met round the shrine of Peace, and Heav'n look'd
  on,—
Who did not hope the lust of spoil was gone;
That that rapacious spirit, which had play'd
The game of Pilnitz o'er so oft, was laid;
And Europe's Rulers, conscious of the past,
Would blush, and deviate into right at last?
But no—the hearts, that nurs'd a hope so fair,
Had yet to learn what men on thrones can dare;
Had yet to know, of all earth's rav'ning things,
The only *quite* untameable are Kings!
Scarce had they met when, to its nature true,
The instinct of their race broke out anew;
Promises, treaties, charters, all were vain,
And "Rapine! rapine!" was the cry again.
How quick they carv'd their victims, and how well,
Let Saxony, let injur'd Genoa tell;—
Let all the human stock that, day by day,
Was, at that Royal slave-mart, truck'd away,—
The million souls that, in the face of heaven,
Were split to fractions[1], barter'd, sold, or given
To swell some despot Power, too huge before,
And weigh down Europe with one Mammoth more.
How safe the faith of Kings let France decide;—
Her charter broken, ere its ink had dried;—
Her Press enthrall'd—her Reason mock'd again
With all the monkery it had spurn'd in vain;
Her crown disgrac'd by one, who dar'd to own
He thank'd not France but England for his throne;
Her triumphs cast into the shade by those,
Who had grown old among her bitterest foes,
And now return'd, beneath her conqu'rors' shields,
Unblushing slaves! to claim her heroes' fields;
To tread down ev'ry trophy of her fame,
And curse that glory which to them was shame!—
Let these—let all the damning deeds, that then
Were dar'd through Europe, cry aloud to men,
With voice like that of crashing ice that rings
Round Alpine huts, the perfidy of Kings;

[1] "Whilst the Congress was re-constructing Europe—not according to rights, natural affiances, language, habits, or laws; but by tables of finance, which divided and subdivided her population into *souls*, *demi-souls*, and even *fractions*, according to a scale of the direct duties or taxes which could be levied by the acquiring state," &c.—*Sketch of the Military and Political Power of Russia.* The words on the protocol are *âmes*, *demi-âmes*, &c.

And tell the world, when hawks shall harmless bear
The shrinking dove, when wolves shall learn to spare
The helpless victim for whose blood they lusted,
Then, and then only, monarchs may be trusted.

It could not last—these horrors *could* not last—
France would herself have ris'n, in might, to cast
The' insulters off—and oh! that then, as now,
Chain'd to some distant islet's rocky brow,
NAPOLEON ne'er had come to force, to blight,
Ere half matur'd, a cause so proudly bright;—
To palsy patriot arts with doubt and shame,
And write on Freedom's flag a despot's name;—
To rush into the lists, unask'd, alone,
And make the stake of *all* the game of *one!*
Then would the world have seen again what pow'r
A people can put forth in Freedom's hour;
Then would the fire of France once more have
blaz'd;—
For every single sword, reluctant rais'd
In the stale cause of an oppressive throne,
Millions would then have leap'd forth in her own;
And never, never had the' unholy stain
Of Bourbon feet disgrac'd her shores again.

But fate decreed not so—the' Imperial Bird,
That, in his neighbouring cage, unfear'd, unstirr'd,
Had seem'd to sleep with head beneath his wing,
Yet watch'd the moment for a daring spring;—
Well might he watch, when deeds were done, that
made
His own transgressions whiten in their shade;
Well might he hope a world, thus trampled o'er
By clumsy tyrants, would be his once more:—
Forth from his cage the eagle burst to light,
From steeple on to steeple[1] wing'd his flight,
With calm and easy grandeur, to that throne
From which a Royal craven just had flown;
And resting there, as in his ærie, furl'd
Those wings, whose very rustling shook the world!

What was your fury then, ye crown'd array,
Whose feast of spoil, whose plund'ring holiday
Was thus broke up, in all its greedy mirth,
By one bold chieftain's stamp on Gallic earth!
Fierce was the cry, and fulminant the ban,—
"Assassinate, who will—enchain, who can,
"The vile, the faithless, outlaw'd, low-born man!"
"Faithless!"—and this from *you*—from *you*, for-
sooth,
Ye pious Kings, pure paragons of truth,
Whose honesty all knew, for all had tried;
Whose true Swiss zeal had serv'd on every side;
Whose fame for breaking faith so long was known,
Well might ye claim the craft as all your own,
And lash your lordly tails, and fume to see
Such low-born apes of Royal perfidy!
Yes—yes—to you alone did it belong
To sin for ever, and yet ne'er do wrong.—
The frauds, the lies of Lords legitimate
Are but fine policy, deep strokes of state;
But let some upstart dare to soar so high
In Kingly craft, and "outlaw" is the cry!
What, though long years of mutual treachery
Had peopled full your diplomatic shelves
With ghosts of treaties, murder'd 'mong your-
selves;
Though each by turns was knave and dupe—
what then?
A Holy League would set all straight again;
Like JUNO's virtue, which a dip or two
In some bless'd fountain made as good as new![2]
Most faithful Russia—faithful to whoe'er
Could plunder best, and give him amplest share;
Who, ev'n when vanquish'd, sure to gain his ends,
For want of *foes* to rob, made free with *friends*,[3]
And, deepening still by amiable gradations,
When foes were stript of all, then fleec'd relations![4]
Most mild and saintly Prussia—steep'd to the' ears
In persecuted Poland's blood and tears,
And now, with all her harpy wings outspread
O'er sever'd Saxony's devoted head!
Pure Austria too—whose hist'ry nought repeats
But broken leagues and subsidiz'd defeats;
Whose faith, as Prince, extinguish'd Venice shows,
Whose faith, as man, a widow'd daughter knows!
And thou, oh England—who, though once as
shy
As cloister'd maids, of shame or perfidy,
Art now *broke in*, and, thanks to C———GH,
In all that's worst and falsest lead'st the way!

Such was the pure divan, whose pens and wits
The' escape from Elba frighten'd into fits;—
Such were the saints, who doom'd NAPOLEON's
life,
In virtuous frenzy to the' assassin's knife.
Disgusting crew!—*who* would not gladly fly
To open, downright, bold-fac'd tyranny,
To honest guilt, that dares do all but lie,
From the false, juggling craft of men like these,
Their canting crimes and varnish'd villanies;—

[1] "L'aigle volera de clocher en clocher, jusqu'aux tours de Notre-Dame."—Napoleon's Proclamation on landing from Elba.

[2] Singulis annis in quodam Atticæ fonte lota virginitatem recuperâsse fingitur.

[3] At the peace of Tilsit, where he abandoned his ally, Prussia, to France, and received a portion of her territory.

[4] The seizure of Finland from his relative of Sweden.

These Holy Leaguers, who then loudest boast
Of faith and honour, when they've stain'd them most;
From whose affection men should shrink as loath
As from their hate, for they'll be fleec'd by both;
Who, ev'n while plund'ring, forge Religion's name
To frank their spoil, and, without fear or shame,
Call down the Holy Trinity [1] to bless
Partition leagues, and deeds of devilishness!
But hold—enough—soon would this swell of rage
O'erflow the boundaries of my scanty page; —
So, here I pause — farewell — another day,
Return we to those Lords of pray'r and prey,
Whose loathsome cant, whose frauds by right divine,
Deserve a lash — oh! weightier far than mine!

LETTER VIII.

FROM MR. BOB FUDGE TO RICHARD ——, ESQ.

Dear Dick, while old Donaldson's [2] mending my stays, — [days,
Which I *knew* would go smash with me one of these
And, at yesterday's dinner, when, full to the throttle,
We lads had begun our desert with a bottle
Of neat old Constantia, on *my* leaning back
Just to order another, by Jove I went crack! —
Or, as honest Tom said, in his nautical phrase,
"D—n my eyes, Bob, in *doubling the Cape* you've *miss'd stays*." [3]
So, of course, as no gentleman's seen out without them,
They're now at the Schneider's [4] — and, while he's about them,
Here goes for a letter, post-haste, neck and crop.
Let us see — in my last I was — where did I stop?
Oh, I know—at the Boulevards, as motley a road as
Man ever would wish a day's lounging upon;
With its cafés and gardens, hotels and pagodas,
Its founts, and old Counts sipping beer in the sun:
With its houses of all architectures you please,
From the Grecian and Gothic, Dick, down by degrees
To the pure Hottentot, or the Brighton Chinese;
Where in temples antique you may breakfast or dinner it,
Lunch at a mosque, and see Punch from a minaret.
Then, Dick, the mixture of bonnets and bow'rs,
Of foliage and fripp'ry, *fiacres* and flow'rs,
Green-grocers, green gardens — one hardly knows whether
'Tis country or town, they 're so mess'd up together!
And there, if one loves the romantic, one sees
Jew clothes-men, like shepherds, reclin'd under trees;
Or Quidnuncs, on Sunday, just fresh from the barber's,
Enjoying their news and *groseille* [5] in those arbours;
While gaily their wigs, like the tendrils, are curling,
And founts of red currant-juice [6] round them are purling.

Here, Dick, arm in arm as we chattering stray,
And receive a few civil "God-dems" by the way,—
For, 'tis odd, these mounseers, — though we've wasted our wealth
And our strength, till we've thrown ourselves into a phthisic,
To cram down their throats an old King for their health,
As we whip little children to make them take physic; —
Yet, spite of our good-natur'd money and slaughter,
They hate us as Beelzebub hates holy-water!
But who the deuce cares, Dick, as long as they nourish us
Neatly as now, and good cookery flourishes —
Long as, by bay'nets protected, we, Natties,
May have our full fling at their *salmis* and *pâtés?*
And, truly, I always declar'd 'twould be pity
To burn to the ground such a choice-feeding city.
Had *Dad* but his way, he'd have long ago blown
The whole batch to old Nick — and the *people*, I own,
If for no other cause than their curst monkey looks,
Well deserve a blow-up — but then, damn it, their Cooks!
As to Marshals, and Statesmen, and all their whole lineage,
For aught that *I* care, you may knock them to spinage;

[1] The usual preamble of these flagitious compacts. In the same spirit, Catherine, after the dreadful massacre of Warsaw, ordered a solemn "thanksgiving to God in all the churches, for the blessings conferred upon the Poles;" and commanded that each of them should "swear fidelity and loyalty to her, and to shed in her defence the last drop of their blood, as they should answer for it to God, and his terrible judgment, kissing the holy word and cross of their Saviour!"

[2] An English tailor at Paris.

[3] A ship is said to miss stays, when she does not obey the helm in tacking.

[4] The dandy term for a tailor.

[5] "Lemonade and *eau-de-groseille* are measured out at every corner of every street, from fantastic vessels, jingling with bells, to thirsty tradesmen or wearied messengers."— See Lady Morgan's lively description of the streets of Paris, in her very amusing work upon France, book vi.

[6] These gay, portable fountains, from which the groseille water is administered, are among the most characteristic ornaments of the streets of Paris.

But think, DICK, their Cooks — what a loss to mankind!
What a void in the world would their art leave behind!
Their chronometer spits — their intense salamanders —
Their ovens — their pots, that can soften old ganders,
All vanish'd for ever — their miracles o'er,
And the *Marmite Perpétuelle* [1] bubbling no more!
Forbid it, forbid it, ye Holy Allies!
Take whatever ye fancy — take statues, take money —
But leave them, oh leave them, their Perigueux pies,
Their glorious goose-livers, and high pickled tunny! [2]
Though many, I own, are the evils they've brought us,
Though Royalty's here on her very last legs,
Yet, who can help loving the land that has taught us
Six hundred and eighty-five ways to dress eggs? [3]

You see, DICK, in spite of their cries of "God-dam,"
"Coquin Anglais," et cæt'ra — how gen'rous I am!
And now (to return, once again, to my "Day,"
Which will take us all night to get through in this way,)
From the Boulevards we saunter through many a street,
Crack jokes on the natives — mine, all very neat —
Leave the Signs of the Times to political fops,
And find *twice* as much fun in the Signs of the Shops; —
Here, a Louis Dix-huit — *there*, a Martinmas goose,
(Much in vogue since your eagles are gone out of use) —
Henri Quatres in shoals, and of Gods a great many,
But Saints are the most on hard duty of any: —
St. TONY, who us'd all temptations to spurn,
Here hangs o'er a beer-shop, and tempts in his turn;
While *there* St. VENECIA [4] sits hemming and frilling her
Holy *mouchoir* o'er the door of some milliner; —
Saint AUSTIN's the "outward and visible sign
"Of an inward" cheap dinner, and pint of small wine;
While St. DENYS hangs out o'er some hatter of *ton*,
And possessing, good bishop, no head of his own, [5]
Takes an int'rest in Dandies, who've got — next to none!
Then we stare into shops — read the evening's *affiches* —
Or, if some, who're Lotharios in feeding, should wish
Just to flirt with a luncheon, (a devilish bad trick,
As it takes off the bloom of one's appetite, DICK,)
To the *Passage des* — what d'ye call't — *des Panoramas* [6]
We quicken our pace, and there heartily cram as
Seducing young *pâtés*, as ever could cozen
One out of one's appetite, down by the dozen.
We vary, of course — *petits pâtés* do *one* day,
The *next* we've our lunch with the Gaufrier Hollandais, [7]
That popular artist, who brings out, like Sc — TT,
His delightful productions so quick, hot and hot;
Not the worse for the exquisite comment that follows, —
Divine *maresquino*, which — Lord, how one swallows!

Once more, then, we saunter forth after our snack, or
Subscribe a few francs for the price of a *fiacre*,
And drive far away to the old Montagnes Russes,
Where we find a few twirls in the car of much use
To regen'rate the hunger and thirst of us sinners,
Who've laps'd into snacks — the perdition of dinners.
And here, DICK — in answer to one of your queries,
About which we, Gourmands, have had much discussion —
I've tried all these mountains, Swiss, French, and Ruggieri's,
And think, for *digestion* [8], there's none like the Russian;

[1] "Cette merveilleuse Marmite Perpétuelle, sur le feu depuis près d'un siècle; qui a donné le jour à plus de 300,000 chapons."—*Alman. de Gourmands*, Quatrième Année, p. 152.

[2] Le thon mariné, one of the most favourite and indigestible *hors-d'œuvres*. This fish is taken chiefly in the Golfe de Lyon. "La tête et le dessous du ventre sont les parties les plus recherchées des gourmets."—*Cours Gastronomique*, p. 252.

[3] The exact number mentioned by M. de lay Reynière — "On connoit en France 685 manières différentes d'accommoder les œufs; sans compter celles que nos savans imaginent chaque jour."

[4] Veronica, the Saint of the Holy Handkerchief, is also, under the name of Venisse or Venecia, the tutelary saint of milliners.

[5] St. Denys walked three miles after his head was cut off. The *mot* of a woman of wit upon this legend is well known: — "Je le crois bien; en pareil cas, il n'y a que le premier pas qui coute."

[6] Off the Boulevards Italiens.

[7] In the Palais Royal; successor, I believe, to the Flamand, so long celebrated for the *moëlleux* of his Gaufres.

[8] Doctor Cotterel recommends, for this purpose, the Beaujon or French Mountains, and calls them "une médicine aérienne, couleur de rose;" but I own I prefer the authority of Mr. Bob, who seems, from the following note found in his own hand-writing, to have studied all these mountains very carefully: —

Memoranda — The Swiss little notice deserves,
While the fall at Ruggieri's is death to weak nerves;
And (whate'er Doctor Cott'rel may write on the question)
The turn at the Beaujon's too sharp for digestion.

I doubt whether Mr. Bob is quite correct in accenting the second syllable of Ruggieri.

So equal the motion — so gentle, though fleet —
It, in short, such a light and salubrious scamper is,
That take whom you please—take old L—s D—x-
H—T,
And stuff him — ay, up to the neck — with stew'd
lampreys,[1]
So wholesome these Mounts, such a *solvent* I've
found them,
That, let me but rattle the Monarch well down them,
The fiend, Indigestion, would fly far away,
And the regicide lampreys[2] be foil'd of their prey!

Such, DICK, are the classical sports that content us,
Till five o'clock brings on that hour so mo-
mentous,[3]
That epoch —— but woa! my lad — here comes the
Schneider,
And, curse him, has made the stays three inches
wider —
Too wide by an inch and a half — what a Guy!
But, no matter — 'twill all be set right by-and-by.
As we've MASSINOT'S[4] eloquent *carte* to eat still up.
An inch and a half's but a trifle to fill up.
So — not to lose time, DICK—here goes for the task;
Au revoir, my old boy — of the Gods I but ask,
That my life, like "the Leap of the German[5]," may be,
"Du lit à la table, de la table au lit!"

R. F.

LETTER IX.

FROM PHIL. FUDGE, ESQ. TO THE LORD VISCOUNT C—ST——GH.

MY Lord, the' Instructions, brought to-day,
"I shall in all my best obey."
Your Lordship talks and writes so sensibly!
And — whatsoe'er some wags may say —
Oh! not at *all* incomprehensibly.

I feel the' inquiries in your letter
About my health and French most flattering;
Thank ye, my French, though somewhat better,
Is, on the whole, but weak and smattering: —
Nothing, of course, that can compare
With his who made the Congress stare
(A certain Lord we need not name),
Who ev'n in French, would have his trope,
And talk of "*bâtir* un système
"Sur *l'équilibre* de l'Europe!"
Sweet metaphor! — and then the' Epistle,
Which bid the Saxon King go whistle, —
That tender letter to "Mon Prince,"[6]
Which show'd alike thy French and sense; —
Oh no, my Lord — there's none can do
Or say *un-English* things like you;
And, if the schemes that fill thy breast
Could but a vent congenial seek,
And use the tongue that suits them best,
What charming Turkish wouldst thou speak!
But as for *me*, a Frenchless grub,
At Congress never born to stammer,
Nor learn like thee, my Lord, to snub
Fall'n Monarchs, out of CHAMBAUD'S grammar —
Bless you, you do not, *cannot* know
How far a little French will go;
For all one's stock, one need but draw
On some half-dozen words like these —
Comme ça — par-là — là-bas — ah ha!
They'll take you all through France with ease.

Your Lordship's praises of the scraps
I sent you from my Journal lately,
(Enveloping a few lac'd caps
For Lady C.) delight me greatly.
Her flatt'ring speech — "what pretty things
"One finds in Mr. FUDGE'S pages!"
Is praise which (as some poet sings)
Would pay one for the toils of ages.

Thus flatter'd, I presume to send
A few more extracts by a friend;

[1] A dish so indigestible, that a late novelist, at the end of his book, could imagine no more summary mode of getting rid of all his heroes and heroines than by a hearty supper of stewed lampreys.

[2] They killed Henry I. of England: — "a food (says Hume, gravely,) which always agreed better with his palate than his constitution."

Lampreys, indeed, seem to have been always a favourite dish with kings — whether from some congeniality between them and that fish, I know not; but *Dio Cassius* tells us that Pollio fattened his lampreys with human blood. St. Louis of France was particularly fond of them. — See the anecdote of Thomas Aquinas eating up his majesty's lamprey, in a note upon *Rabelais*, liv. iii. chap. 2.

[3] Had Mr. Bob's *Dinner* Epistle been inserted, I was prepared with an abundance of learned matter to illustrate it, for which, as, indeed, for all my "scientia popinæ[a]," I am indebted to a friend in the Dublin University, — whose reading formerly lay in the *magic* line; but, in consequence of the Provost's enlightened alarm at such studies, he has taken to the authors, "*de re cibariâ*" instead; and has left *Bodin*, *Remigius*, *Agrippa* and his little dog *Filiolus*, for *Apicius*, *Nonius*, and that most learned and savoury jesuit, *Bulengerus*.

[4] A famous Restaurateur — now Dupont.

[5] An old French saying; — "Faire le saut de l'Allemand, du lit à la table et de la table au lit."

[6] The celebrated letter to Prince Hardenburgh (written, however, I believe, originally in English,) in which his Lordship, professing to see "no moral or political objection" to the dismemberment of Saxony, denounced the unfortunate King as "not only the most devoted, but the most favoured of Bonaparte's vassals."

[a] Seneca.

And I should hope they'll be no less
Approv'd of than my last MS.—
The former ones, I fear, were creas'd,
As BIDDY round the caps *would* pin them!
But these will come to hand, at least
Unrumpled, for there's nothing in them.

Extracts from Mr. Fudge's Journal, addressed to Lord C.

Aug. 10.

Went to the Mad-house—saw the man, [1]
Who thinks, poor wretch, that, while the Fiend
Of Discord here full riot ran,
He, like the rest, was guillotin'd;—
But that when, under BONEY's reign,
(A more discreet, though quite as strong one,)
The heads were all restor'd again,
He, in the scramble, got a *wrong one.*
Accordingly, he still cries out
This strange head fits him most unpleasantly;
And always runs, poor devil, about,
Inquiring for his own incessantly!

While to his case a tear I dropt,
And saunter'd home, thought I—ye Gods!
How many heads might thus be swopp'd,
And, after all, not make much odds!
For instance, there's V—S—TT—T's head—
("Tam *carum* [2]" it may well be said)
If by some curious chance it came
To settle on BILL SOAMES's [3] shoulders,
The' effect would turn out much the same
On all respectable cash-holders:
Except that while, in its *new* socket,
The head was planning schemes to win
A *zig-zag* way into one's pocket,
The hands would plunge *directly* in.

Good Viscount S—DM—H, too, instead
Of his own grave, respected head,
Might wear (for aught I see that bars)
Old Lady WILHELMINA FRUMP's—
So while the hand sign'd *Circulars,*
The head might lisp out, "What is trumps?"—
The R—G—T's brains could we transfer
To some robust man-milliner,
The shop, the shears, the lace, and ribbon
Would go, I doubt not, quite as glib on;
And, *vice versâ*, take the pains
To give the P—CE the shopman's brains,
One only change from thence would flow,
Ribbons would not be wasted so.

'Twas thus I ponder'd on, my Lord;
And, ev'n at night, when laid in bed,
I found myself, before I snor'd,
Thus chopping, swopping head for head,
At length I thought, fantastic elf!
How such a change would suit *myself.*
'Twixt sleep and waking, one by one,
With various pericraniums saddled,
At last I tried your Lordship's on,
And then I grew completely addled—
Forgot all other heads, od rot 'em!
And slept, and dreamt that I was—BOTTOM.

Aug. 21.

Walk'd out with daughter BID—was shown
The house of Commons, and the Throne,
Whose velvet cushion's just the same [4]
NAPOLEON sat on—what a shame!
Oh, can we wonder, best of speechers,
When LOUIS seated thus we see,
That France's "fundamental features"
Are much the same they us'd to be?
However,—God preserve the Throne,
And *cushion* too—and keep them free
From accidents, which *have* been known
To happen ev'n to Royalty! [5]

Aug. 28.

Read, at a stall (for oft one pops
On something at these stalls and shops,
That does to *quote*, and gives one's Book
A classical and knowing look.—
Indeed I've found, in Latin, lately,
A course of stalls improves me greatly)—
'Twas thus I read, that, in the East,
A monarch's *fat*'s a serious matter;
And once in ev'ry year, at least,
He's weigh'd—to see if he gets fatter: [6]
Then, if a pound or two he be
Increas'd, there's quite a jubilee! [7]

[1] This extraordinary madman is, I believe, in the Bicêtre. He imagines, exactly as Mr. Fudge states it, that, when the heads of those who had been guillotined were restored, he by mistake got some other person's instead of his own.

[2] Tam cari capitis.—HORAT.

[3] A celebrated pickpocket.

[4] The only change, if I recollect right, is the substitution of lilies for bees. This war upon the bees is, of course, universal; "exitium misère apibus," like the angry nymphs in Virgil:—but may not *new swarms* arise out of the *victims* of Legitimacy yet?

[5] I am afraid that Mr. Fudge alludes here to a very awkward accident, which is well known to have happened to poor L—s le D—s—é, some years since, at one of the R—g—t's Fêtes. He was sitting next our gracious Queen at the time.

[6] "The third day of the Feast the King causeth himself to be weighed with great care."—*F. Bernier's Voyage to Surat*, &c.

[7] "I remember," says Bernier, "that all the Omrahs expressed great joy that the King weighed two pounds more now than the year preceding."—Another author tells us that

Suppose, my Lord — and far from me
To treat such things with levity —
But just suppose the R—G—T's weight
Were made thus an affair of state;
And, ev'ry sessions, at the close, —
'Stead of a speech, which, all can see, is
Heavy and dull enough, God knows —
We were to try how heavy *he* is.
Much would it glad all hearts to hear
That, while the Nation's Revenue
Loses so many pounds a year,
The P——e, God bless him! *gains* a few.

With bales of muslin, chintzes, spices,
I see the Easterns weigh their Kings; —
But, for the R—G—T, my advice is,
We should throw in much *heavier* things:
For instance ————'s quarto volumes,
Which, though not spices, serve to wrap them;
Dominie ST—DD—T's Daily columns,
"Prodigious!" — in, of course, we'd clap them —
Letters, that C—RTW——T's[1] pen indites,
In which, with logical confusion,
The *Major* like a *Minor* writes,
And never comes to a *Conclusion*: —
Lord S—M—RS' pamphlet — or his head —
(Ah, *that* were worth its weight in lead!)
Along with which we *in* may whip, sly,
The Speeches of Sir JOHN C—X H—PP—SLY;
That Baronet of many words,
Who loves so, in the House of Lords,
To whisper Bishops — and so nigh
Unto their wigs in whisp'ring goes,
That you may always know him by
A patch of powder on his nose! —
If this wo'n't do, we in must cram
The "Reasons" of Lord B—CK—GH—M;
(A Book his Lordship means to write,
Entitled "Reasons for my Ratting:")
Or, should these prove too small and light,
His r——p's a host — we'll bundle *that* in!
And, *still* should all these masses fail
To turn the R—G—T's ponderous scale,
Why then, my Lord, in heaven's name,
Pitch in, without reserve or stint,
The whole of R—GL—Y's beauteous Dame —
If *that* wo'n't raise him, devil's in it!

Aug. 31.

Consulted MURPHY'S TACITUS
About those famous spies at Rome,[2]
Whom certain Whigs — to make a fuss —
Describe as much resembling us,[3]
Informing gentlemen, at home.
But, bless the fools, they *can't* be serious,
To say Lord S—DM—TH's like TIBERIUS!
What! *he*, the Peer, that injures no man,
Like that severe, blood-thirsty Roman! —
'Tis true, the Tyrant lent an ear to
All sorts of spies — so doth the Peer, too.
'Tis true my Lord's Elect tell fibs,
And deal in perjury — *ditto* TIB's.
'Tis true, the Tyrant screen'd and hid
His rogues from justice[4] — *ditto* SID.
'Tis true the Peer is grave and glib
At moral speeches — *ditto* TIB.[5]
'Tis true, the feats the Tyrant did
Were in his dotage — *ditto* SID.

So far, I own, the parallel
'Twixt TIB and SID goes vastly well;
But there are points in TIB that strike
My humble mind as much more like
Yourself, my dearest Lord, or him,
Of the' India Board — that soul of whim!
Like him, TIBERIUS lov'd his joke,[6]
On matters, too, where few can bear one;
E. g. a man, cut up, or broke
Upon the wheel — a devilish fair one!
Your common fractures, wounds, and fits,
Are nothing to such wholesale wits;
But, let the suff'rer gasp for life,
The joke is then worth any money;
And, if he writhe beneath a knife, —
Oh dear, that's something *quite* too funny.
In this respect, my Lord, you see
The Roman wag and ours agree:

"Fatness, as well as a very large head, is considered, throughout India, as one of the most precious gifts of heaven. An enormous skull is absolutely revered, and the happy owner is looked up to as a superior being. To a *Prince* a joulter head is invaluable." — *Oriental Field Sports.*

[1] Major Cartwright.

[2] The name of the first worthy who set up the trade of informer at Rome (to whom our Olivers and Castleses ought to erect a statue) was Romanus Hispo; — "qui formam vitæ iniit, quam postea celebrem miseriæ temporum et audaciæ hominum fecerunt." — TACIT. *Annal.* i. 74.

[3] They certainly possessed the same art of *instigating* their victims, which the Report of the Secret Committee attributes to Lord Sidmouth's agents: — "*socius* (says Tacitus of one of them) libidinum et necessitatum, *quo pluribus indiciis inligaret.*"

[4] "Neque tamen id Sereno noxæ fuit, *quem odium publicum tutiorem faciebat.* Nam ut quis districtior accusator *velut sacrosanctus erat.*" — *Annal.* lib. iv. 36. — Or, as it is translated by Mr. Fudge's friend, Murphy: — "This daring accuser had the *curses* of the *people*, and the *protection* of the *Emperor*. *Informers*, in proportion as they rose in guilt, *became sacred characters.*"

[5] Murphy even confers upon one of his speeches the epithet "constitutional." Mr. Fudge might have added to his parallel, that Tiberius was a *good private* character: — "egregium vitâ famâque *quoad privatus.*"

[6] "*Ludibria scriis* permiscere solitus."

Now as to *your* resemblance—mum—
This parallel we need not follow; [1]
Though 'tis, in Ireland, said by some
Your Lordship beats TIBERIUS hollow;
Whips, chains—but these are things too serious
For me to mention or discuss;
Whene'er your Lordship acts TIBERIUS,
PHIL. FUDGE's part is *Tacitus!*

Sept. 2.

Was thinking, had Lord S—DM—TH got
Any good decent sort of Plot
Against the winter-time—if not,
Alas, alas, our ruin's fated;
All done up, and *spiflicated*!
Ministers and all their vassals,
Down from C—TL——GH to CASTLES,—
Unless we can kick up a riot,
Ne'er can hope for peace or quiet!
What's to be done?—Spa-Fields was clever;
But even *that* brought gibes and mockings
Upon our heads—so, *mem.*—must never
Keep ammunition in old stockings;
For fear some wag should in his curst head
Take it to say our force was *worsted.*
Mem. too—when SID an army raises,
It must not be "incog." like *Bayes*'s:
Nor must the General be a hobbling
Professor of the art of cobbling;
Lest men, who perpetrate such puns,
Should say, with Jacobinic grin,
He felt, from *soleing Wellingtons*, [2]
A *Wellington*'s great *soul* within!
Nor must an old Apothecary
Go take the Tower, for lack of pence,
With (what these wags would call, so merry,)
Physical force and *phial*-ence!
No—no—our Plot, my Lord, must be
Next time contriv'd more skilfully.
John Bull, I grieve to say, is growing
So troublesomely sharp and knowing,
So wise—in short, so Jacobin—
'Tis monstrous hard to *take him in.*

Sept. 6.

Heard of the fate of our Ambassador
In China, and was sorely nettled;
But think, my Lord, we should not pass it o'er
Till all this matter's fairly settled;
And here's the mode occurs to *me*:—
As none of our Nobility,
Though for their *own* most gracious King
(They would kiss hands, or—any thing),
Can be persuaded to go through
This farce-like trick of the *Ko-tou*;
And as these Mandarins *wo'n't* bend,
Without some mumming exhibition,
Suppose, my Lord, you were to send
GRIMALDI to them on a mission:
As *Leg*ate, JOE could play his part,
And if, in diplomatic art,
The "volto sciolto" [3] 's meritorious,
Let JOE but grin, he has it, glorious!
A *title* for him's easily made;
And, by-the-by, one Christmas time,
If I remember right, he play'd
Lord MORLEY in some pantomime;—[4]
As Earl of M—RL—Y then gazette him,
If *t'other* Earl of M—RL—Y'll let him.
(And why should not the world be blest
With *two* such stars, for East and West?)
Then, when before the Yellow Screen
He's brought—and, sure, the very essence
Of etiquette would be that scene
Of JOE in the Celestial Presence!—
He thus should say:—"Duke Ho and Soo,
"I'll play what tricks you please for you,
"If you'll, in turn, but do for me
"A few small tricks you now shall see.
"If I consult *your* Emperor's liking,
"At least you'll do the same for *my* King."
He then should give them nine such grins,
As would astound ev'n Mandarins;
And throw such somersets before
The picture of King GEORGE (God bless him!)
As, should Duke Ho but try them o'er,
Would, by CONFUCIUS, *much* distress him!

I start this merely as a hint,
But think you'll find some wisdom in't;
And, should you follow up the job,
My son, my Lord (you *know* poor BOB),
Would in the suite be glad to go
And help his Excellency, JOE;—
At least, like noble AMH—RST's son,
The lad will do to *practise* on. [5]

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[1] There is one point of resemblance between Tiberius and Lord C. which Mr. Fudge *might* have mentioned—"*suspensa semper et obscura verba.*"

[2] Short boots, so called.

[3] The *open countenance*, recommended by Lord Chesterfield.

[4] Mr. Fudge is a little mistaken here. It was *not* Grimaldi, but some very inferior performer, who played this part of "Lord Morley" in the pantomime,—so much to the horror of the distinguished Earl of that name. The expostulary letters of the Noble Earl to Mr. H—rr—s, upon this vulgar profanation of his spick-and-span new title, will, I trust, some time or other, be given to the world.

[5] See Mr. Ellis's account of the Embassy.

LETTER X.

FROM MISS BIDDY FUDGE TO MISS DOROTHY ——.

Well, it *is'n't* the King, after all, my dear creature!
But *do'n't* you go laugh, now—there's nothing to quiz in't—
For grandeur of air and for grimness of feature,
He *might* be a King, Doll, though, hang him, he isn't.
At first, I felt hurt, for I wish'd it, I own,
If for no other cause but to vex Miss Malone,—
(The great heiress, you know, of Shandangan, who's here,
Showing off with *such* airs, and a real Cashmere,[1]
While mine's but a paltry old rabbit-skin, dear!)
But Pa says, on deeply consid'ring the thing,
"I am just as well pleas'd it should *not* be the King;
"As I think for my Biddy, so *gentille* and *jolie*,
"Whose charms may their price in an *honest* way fetch,
"That a Brandenburgh"—(what *is* a Brandenburgh, Dolly?)—
"Would be, after all, no such very great catch.
"If the R—g—t indeed"—added he, looking sly—
(You remember that comical squint of his eye)
But I stopp'd him with "La, Pa, how *can* you say so,
"When the R—g—t loves none but old women, you know!"
Which is fact, my dear Dolly—we, girls of eighteen,
And so slim—Lord, he'd think us not fit to be seen;
And would like us much better as old—ay, as old
As that Countess of Desmond, of whom I've been told
That she liv'd to much more than a hundred and ten,
And was kill'd by a fall from a cherry-tree then!

What a frisky old girl! but—to come to my lover,
Who, though not a King, is a *hero* I'll swear,—
You shall hear all that's happen'd, just briefly run over,
Since that happy night, when we whisk'd through the air!

Let me see—'twas on Saturday—yes, Dolly, yes—
From that evening I date the first dawn of my bliss,
When we both rattled off in that dear little carriage,
Whose journey, Bob says, is so like Love and Marriage,
"Beginning gay, desperate, dashing, down-hilly,
"And ending as dull as a six-inside Dilly!"[2]
Well, scarcely a wink did I sleep the night through;
And, next day, having scribbled my letter to you,
With a heart full of hope this sweet fellow to meet,
I set out with Papa, to see Louis Dix-huit
Make his bow to some half dozen women and boys,
Who get up a small concert of shrill *Vive le Rois*—
And how vastly genteeler, my dear, even this is,
Than vulgar Pall-Mall's oratorio of hisses!
The gardens seem'd full—so, of course, we walk'd o'er 'em,
'Mong orange-trees, clipp'd into town-bred decorum,
And daphnes, and vases, and many a statue,
There staring, with not ev'n a stitch on them, at you!
The ponds, too, we view'd—stood awhile on the brink
To contemplate the play of those pretty gold fishes—
"*Live bullion*," says merciless Bob, "which, I think,
"Would, if *coin'd*, with a little *mint* sauce, be delicious!"[3]

But *what*, Dolly, what, is the gay orange-grove,
Or gold fishes, to her that's in search of her love?

[1] See Lady Morgan's "France" for the anecdote, told her by Madame de Genlis, of the young gentleman whose love was cured by finding that his mistress wore a *shawl* "peau de lapin."

[2] The cars, on the return, are dragged up slowly by a chain.

[3] Mr. Bob need not be ashamed of his cookery jokes, when he is kept in countenance by such men as *Cicero*, *St. Augustine*, and that jovial bishop, *Venantius Fortunatus*. The pun of the great orator upon the "jus Verrinum," which he calls bad *hog-broth*, from a play upon both the words, is well known; and the Saint's puns upon the conversion of Lot's wife into salt are equally ingenious:—"In salem conversa hominibus fidelibus quoddam præstitit *condimentum*, quo *sapiant* aliquid, unde illud caveatur exemplum."—*De Civitat. Dei*, lib. xvi. cap. 30.—The jokes of the pious favourite of Queen Radagunda, the convivial Bishop *Venantius*, may be found among his poems, in some lines against a cook who had robbed him. The following is similar to *Cicero*'s pun:—

Plus *juscella* Coci quam mea *jura* valent.

See his poems, *Corpus Poetar. Latin.* tom. ii. p. 1732.—Of the same kind was *Montmaur*'s joke, when a dish was spilt over him—"summum jus, summa injuria;" and the same celebrated parasite, in ordering a sole to be placed before him, said,—

Eligi cui dicas, tu mihi *sola* places.

The reader may likewise see, among a good deal of *kitchen* erudition, the learned *Lipsius*'s jokes on cutting up a capon in his *Saturnal. Sermon.* lib. ii. cap. 2.

In vain did I wildly explore every chair
Where a thing *like* a man was—no lover sat there!
In vain my fond eyes did I eagerly cast
At the whiskers, mustachios, and wigs that went past,
To obtain, if I could, but a glance at that curl,—
A glimpse of those whiskers, as sacred, my girl,
As the lock that, Pa says [1], is to Mussulmen giv'n,
For the angel to hold by that "lugs them to heav'n!"
Alas, there went by me full many a quiz,
And mustachios in plenty, but nothing like his!
Disappointed, I found myself sighing out "well-a-day,"—
Thought of the words of T—M M—RE's Irish Melody,
Something about the "green spot of delight" [2]
(Which, you know, Captain MACKINTOSH sung to us one day):
Ah DOLLY, *my* "spot" was that Saturday night,
And its verdure, how fleeting, had wither'd by Sunday!
We din'd at a tavern—La, what do I say?
If BOB was to know!—a *Restaurateur*'s, dear;
Where your *properest* ladies go dine every day,
And drink Burgundy out of large tumblers, like beer.
Fine BOB (for he's really grown *super*-fine)
Condescended, for once, to make one of the party;
Of course, though but three, we had dinner for nine,
And in spite of my grief, love, I own I ate hearty.
Indeed, DOLL, I know not how 'tis, but, in grief,
I have always found eating a wondrous relief;
And BOB, who's in love, said he felt the same, *quite*—
"My sighs," said he, "ceas'd with the first glass I drank you;
"The *lamb* made me tranquil, the *puffs* made me light,
And—now that all's o'er—why, I'm—pretty well, thank you!"

To *my* great annoyance, we sat rather late;
For BOBBY and Pa had a furious debate
About singing and cookery—BOBBY, of course,
Standing up for the latter Fine Art in full force; [3]
And Pa saying, "God only knows which is worst,
"The French Singers or Cooks, but I wish us well over it—
"What with old LAÏS and VÉRY, I'm curst
"If *my* head or my stomach will ever recover it!"

'Twas dark, when we got to the Boulevards to stroll,
And in vain did I look 'mong the street Macaronis,
When, sudden it struck me—last hope of my soul—
That some angel might take the dear man to TORTONI'S! [4]
We enter'd—and, scarcely had BOB, with an air,
For a *grappe à la jardinière* call'd to the waiters,
When, oh DOLL! I saw him—my hero was there
(For I knew his white small-clothes and brown leather gaiters),
A group of fair statues from Greece smiling o'er him, [5]
And lots of red currant-juice sparkling before him!
Oh DOLLY, these heroes—what creatures they are;
In the *boudoir* the same as in fields full of slaughter!
As cool in the Beaujon's precipitous car,
As when safe at TORTONI'S, o'er ic'd currant water!
He join'd us—imagine, dear creature, my ecstasy—
Join'd by the man I'd have broken ten necks to see!
BOB wish'd to treat him with Punch *à la glace*,
But the sweet fellow swore that my *beauté*, my *grace*,
And my *je-ne-sais-quoi* (then his whiskers he twirl'd)
Were, to *him*, "on de top of all Ponch in de vorld."—
How pretty!—though oft (as of course, it must be)
Both his French and his English are Greek, DOLL, to me.
But, in short, I felt happy as ever fond heart did;
And happier still, when 'twas fix'd, ere we parted,
That, if the next day should be *pastoral* weather,
We all would set off, in French buggies, together,

[1] For this scrap of knowledge "Pa" was, I suspect, indebted to a note upon Volney's ruins; a book which usually forms part of a Jacobin's library, and with which Mr. Fudge must have been well acquainted at the time when he wrote his "Down with Kings," &c. The note in Volney is as follows:—"It is by this tuft of hair (on the crown of the head), worn by the majority of Mussulmans, that the Angel of the Tomb is to take the elect and carry them to Paradise."

[2] The young lady, whose memory is not very correct, must allude, I think, to the following lines:—

Oh that fairy form is ne'er forgot,
Which First Love trac'd;
Still it ling'ring haunts the greenest spot
On Memory's waste!

[3] Cookery has been dignified by the researches of a *Bacon*; see his *Natural History, Receipts*, &c.) and takes its station as one of the Fine Arts in the following passage of Mr. *Dugald Stewart*:—"Agreeably to this view of the subject, *sweet* may be said to be *intrinsically* pleasing, and *bitter* to be relatively pleasing; which both are, in many cases, equally essential to those effects, which, in the art of cookery, correspond to that *composite beauty*, which it is the object of the painter and of the poet to create."—*Philosophical Essays*.

[4] A fashionable *café glacier* on the Italian Boulevards.

[5] "You eat your ice at Tortoni's," says Mr. Scott, "under a Grecian group."

To see *Montmorency* — that place which, you know,
Is so famous for cherries and JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU.
His card then he gave us — the *name*, rather creas'd —
But 'twas CALICOT — something — a Colonel at least!
After which — sure there never was hero so civil — he
Saw us safe home to our door in *Rue Rivoli*,
Where his *last* words, as, at parting, he threw
A soft look o'er his shoulders, were — "How do you do!"[1]
[vext —
But, lord, — there's Papa for the post — I'm so
Montmorency must now, love, be kept for my next.
That dear Sunday night! — I was charmingly drest,
And — *so* providential! — was looking my best;
Such a sweet muslin gown, with a flounce — and my frills,
You've no notion how rich — (though Pa has by the bills)
And you'd smile had you seen, where we sat rather near,
Colonel CALICOT eyeing the cambric, my dear.
Then the flow'rs in my bonnet — but, la, it's in vain —
So, good-by, my sweet DOLL — I shall soon write again. B. F.

Nota bene — our love to all neighbours about —
Your Papa in particular — how is his gout?

P.S. — I've just open'd my letter to say,
In your next you must tell me, (now *do*, DOLLY, pray,
For I hate to ask BOB, he's so ready to quiz,)
What sort of a thing, dear, a *Brandenburgh* is.

LETTER XI.

FROM PHELIM CONNOR TO ——.

YES, 'twas a cause, as noble and as great
As ever hero died to vindicate —
A Nation's right to speak a Nation's voice,
And own no power but of the Nation's choice!
Such was the grand, the glorious cause that now
Hung trembling on NAPOLEON'S single brow;
Such the sublime arbitrament, that pour'd,
In patriot eyes, a light around his sword,
A hallowing light, which never, since the day
Of his young victories, had illum'd its way!

Oh, 'twas not then the time for tame debates,
Ye men of Gaul, when chains were at your gates;
When he, who late had fled your Chieftain's eye,
As geese from eagles on Mount Taurus fly,[2]
Denounc'd against the land, that spurn'd his chain,
Myriads of swords to bind it fast again —
Myriads of fierce invading swords, to track
Through your best blood his path of vengeance back;
When Europe's Kings, that never yet combin'd
But (like those upper Stars, that, when conjoin'd,
Shed war and pestilence,) to scourge mankind,
Gather'd round, with hosts from every shore,
Hating NAPOLEON much, but Freedom more,
And, in that coming strife, appall'd to see
The world yet left one chance for liberty! —
No, 'twas not *then* the time to weave a net
Of bondage round your Chief; to curb and fret
Your veteran war-horse, pawing for the fight,
When every hope was in his speed and might —
To waste the hour of action in dispute,
And coolly plan how freedom's *boughs* should shoot,
When your Invader's axe was at the *root*?
No, sacred Liberty! that God, who throws,
Thy light around, like his own sunshine, knows
How well I love thee, and how deeply hate
All tyrants, upstart and Legitimate —
Yet, in that hour, were France my native land,
I would have follow'd, with quick heart and hand,
NAPOLEON, NERO — ay, no matter whom —
To snatch my country from that damning doom,
That deadliest curse that on the conquer'd waits —
A Conqueror's satrap, thron'd within her gates!

True, he was false — despotic — all you please —
Had trampled down man's holiest liberties —
Had, by a genius, form'd for nobler things
Than lie within the grasp of *vulgar* Kings,
But rais'd the hopes of men — as eaglets fly
With tortoises aloft into the sky —
To dash them down again more shatt'ringly!
All this I own — but still[3] * *
* * * * * *

[1] Not an unusual mistake with foreigners.

[2] See Ælian, lib. v. cap. 29. — who tells us that these geese, from a consciousness of their own loquacity, always cross Mount Taurus with stones in their bills, to prevent any unlucky cackle from betraying them to the eagles — διαπιπτουσαι σιωπωσης.

[3] Somebody (Fontenelle, I believe,) has said, that if he had his hand full of truths, he would open but one finger at a time; and the same sort of reserve I find to be necessary with respect to Mr. Connor's very plain-spoken letters. The remainder of this Epistle is so full of unsafe matter-of-fact, that it must, for the present at least, be withheld from the public.

LETTER XII.

FROM MISS BIDDY FUDGE TO MISS DOROTHY ——.

At last, DOLLY, — thanks to a potent emetic,
Which BOBBY and Pa, with grimace sympathetic,
Have swallow'd this morning to balance the bliss,
Of an eel *matelote* and a *bisque d'écrevisses*—
I've a morning at home to myself, and sit down
To describe you our heavenly trip out of town.
How agog you must be for this letter, my dear!
Lady JANE, in the novel, less languish'd to hear
If that elegant cornet she met at Lord NEVILLE'S
Was actually dying with love or — blue devils.
But Love, DOLLY, Love is the theme *I* pursue;
With Blue Devils, thank heav'n, I have nothing to do—
Except, indeed, dear Colonel CALICOT spies
Any imps of that colour in *certain* blue eyes,
Which he stares at till *I*, DOLL, at *his* do the same;
Then he simpers — I blush — and would often exclaim,
If I knew but the French for it, "Lord, Sir, for shame!"

Well, the morning was lovely — the trees in full dress
For the happy occasion — the sunshine *express*—
Had we order'd it, dear, of the best poet going,
It scarce could be furnish'd more golden and glowing.
Though late when we started, the scent of the air
Was like GATTIE'S rose-water, — and, bright, here and there,
On the grass an odd dew-drop was glittering yet,
Like my aunt's diamond pin on her green tabbinet!
While the birds seem'd to warble as blest on the boughs,
As if *each* a plum'd Calicot had for her spouse;
And the grapes were all blushing and kissing in rows,
And — in short, need I tell you, wherever one goes
With the creature one loves, 'tis all *couleur de rose*;
And, ah, I shall ne'er, liv'd I ever so long, see
A day such as that at divine Montmorency!

*

There was but *one* drawback — at first when we started,
The Colonel and I were inhumanly parted;
How cruel — young hearts of such moment to rob!
He went in Pa's buggy, and I went with BOB;
And, I own, I felt spitefully happy to know
That Papa and his comrade agreed but *so-so*.
For the Colonel, it seems, is a stickler of BONEY'S—
Serv'd *with* him of course — nay, I'm sure they were cronies.
So martial his features! dear DOLL, you can trace
Ulm, Austerlitz, Lodi, as plain in his face
As you do on that pillar of glory and brass,[1]
Which the poor DUC DE B—RI must hate so to pass!
It appears, too, he made — as most foreigners do —
About English affairs an odd blunder or two.
For example — misled by the names, I dare say —
He confounded JACK CASTLES with Lord C——GH;
And — sure such a blunder no mortal hit ever on —
Fancied the *present* Lord C—MD—N the *clever* one!

But politics ne'er were the sweet fellow's trade;
'Twas for war and the ladies my Colonel was made.
And, oh, had you heard, as together we walk'd
Through that beautiful forest, how sweetly he talk'd;
And how perfectly well he appear'd, DOLL, to know
All the life and adventures of JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU! —
"'Twas there," said he — not that his *words* I can state—
'Twas a gibb'rish that Cupid alone could translate; —
But "there," said he, (pointing where, small and remote,
The dear Hermitage rose,) "there his JULIE he wrote, —
"Upon paper gilt-edg'd[2], without blot or erasure;
"Then sanded it over with silver and azure,
"And — oh, what will genius and fancy not do? —
"Tied the leaves up together with *nompareille* blue!"
What a trait of Rousseau! what a crowd of emotions
From sand and blue ribbons are conjur'd up here!
Alas, that a man of such exquisite[3] notions
Should send his poor brats to the Foundling, my dear!

"'Twas here, too, perhaps," Colonel CALICOT said—
As down the small garden he pensively led—

[1] The column in the Place Vendôme.

[2] "Employant pour cela le plus beau papier doré, séchant l'écriture avec de la poudre d'azur et d'argent, et cousant mes cahiers avec de la nompareille bleue." — *Les Confessions*, part ii. liv. 9.

[3] This word, "exquisite," is evidently a favourite of Miss Fudge's; and I understand she was not a little angry when her brother Bob committed a pun on the last two syllables of it in the following couplet: —

"I'd fain praise your Poem — but tell me, how is it
When *I* cry out "Exquisite," *Echo* cries "*quiz it?*"

(Though once I could see his sublime forehead wrinkle
With rage not to find there the lov'd periwinkle)[1]
" 'Twas here he receiv'd from the fair D'EPINAY
" (Who call'd him so sweetly *her Bear*[2], every day,)
" That dear flannel petticoat, pull'd off to form
" A waistcoat to keep the enthusiast warm!"[3]

Such, DOLL, were the sweet recollections we ponder'd,
As, full of romance, through that valley we wander'd.
The flannel (one's train of ideas, how odd it is!)
Led us to talk about other commodities,
Cambric, and silk, and — I ne'er shall forget,
For the sun was then hast'ning in pomp to its set,
And full on the Colonel's dark whiskers shone down,
When he ask'd me, with eagerness, — who made my gown?
The question confus'd me — for, DOLL, you must know,
And I *ought* to have told my best friend long ago,
That, by Pa's strict command, I no longer employ[4]
That enchanting *couturière*, Madame LE ROI;
But am forc'd now to have VICTORINE, who — deuce take her! —
It seems is, at present, the King's mantua-maker —
I mean *of his party*—and, though much the smartest,
LE ROI is condemn'd as a rank Bonapartist.[5]
Think, DOLL, how confounded I look'd — so well knowing
The Colonel's opinion — my cheeks were quite glowing;
I stammer'd out something — nay, even half nam'd
The *legitimate* sempstress, when, loud, he exclaim'd,
" Yes, yes, by the stitching 'tis plain to be seen
" It was made by that Bourbonite b———h, VICTORINE!"
What a word for a hero! — but heroes *will* err,
And I thought, dear, I'd tell you things *just* as they were.
Besides, though the word on good manners intrench,
I assure you 'tis not *half* so shocking in French.

But this cloud, though embarrassing, soon pass'd away
And the bliss altogether, the dreams of that day,
The thoughts that arise, when such dear fellows woo us —
The *nothings* that then, love, are *every thing* to us —
That quick correspondence of glances and sighs,
And what BOB calls the " Twopenny-post of the Eyes" —
Ah, DOLL! though I *know* you've a heart, 'tis in vain
To a heart so unpractis'd these things to explain.
They can only be felt, in their fulness divine,
By her who has wander'd, at evening's decline,
Through a valley like that, with a Colonel like mine!

But here I must finish — for BOB, my dear DOLLY,
Whom physic, I find, always makes melancholy,
Is seiz'd with a fancy for church-yard reflections;
And, full of all yesterday's rich recollections,
Is just setting off for Montmartre — " for *there* is,"
Said he, looking solemn, " The tomb of the VÉRYS!
" Long, long have I wish'd, as a votary true,
" O'er the grave of such talents to utter my moans;
" And, to-day — as my stomach is not in good cue
" For the *flesh* of the VÉRYS — I'll visit their *bones!*"
He insists upon *my* going with him — how teasing!
This letter, however, dear DOLLY, shall lie
Unseal'd in my draw'r, that, if any thing pleasing
Occurs while I'm out, I may tell you — good-bye.
B. F.

Four o'clock.

Oh, DOLLY, dear DOLLY, I'm ruin'd for ever —
I ne'er shall be happy again, DOLLY, never!
To think of the wretch — what a victim was I!
'Tis too much to endure — I shall die, I shall die —
My brain's in a fever — my pulses beat quick —
I shall die, or, at least, be exceedingly sick!
Oh, what do you think? after all my romancing,
My visions of glory, my sighing, my glancing,
This Colonel — I scarce can commit it to paper —
This Colonel's no more than a vile linen-draper!!
'Tis true as I live — I had coax'd brother BOB so,
(You'll hardly make out what I'm writing, I sob so,)

[1] The flower which Rousseau brought into such fashion among the Parisians, by exclaiming one day, " Ah, voilà de la pervenche!"

[2] " *Mon ours*, voilà votre asyle — et vous, *mon ours*, ne viendrez vous pas aussi?" — &c. &c.

[3] " Un jour, qu'il geloit très-fort, en ouvrant un paquet qu'elle m'envoyoit, je trouvai un petit jupon de flanelle d'Angleterre, qu'elle me marquoit avoir porté, et dont elle vouloit que je me fisse faire un gilet. Ce soin, plus qu'amical, me parut si tendre, comme si elle se fût dépouillée pour me vêtir, que, dans mon émotion, je baisai vingt fois en pleurant le billet et le jupon."

[4] Miss Biddy's notions of French pronunciation may be perceived in the rhymes which she always selects for " *Le Roi*."

[5] LE ROI, who was the *Couturière* of the Empress Maria Louisa, is at present, of course, out of fashion, and is succeeded in her station by the Royalist mantua-maker, VICTORINE.

[6] It is the *brother* of the present excellent Restaurateur who lies entombed so magnificently in the Cimetière Montmartre. The inscription on the column at the head of the tomb concludes with the following words: — " Toute sa vie fut consacrée aux *arts utiles*."

For some little gift on my birth-day — September
The thirtieth, dear, I'm eighteen, you remember —
That Bob to a shop kindly order'd the coach,
(Ah, little I thought who the shopman would prove,)
To bespeak me a few of those *mouchoirs de poche*,
Which, in happier hours, I have sigh'd for, my love —
(The most beautiful things — two Napoleons the price —
And one's name in the corner embroider'd so nice!)
Well, with heart full of pleasure, I enter'd the shop,
But — ye Gods, what a phantom! — I thought I should drop —
There he stood, my dear Dolly — no room for a doubt —
There, behind the vile counter, these eyes saw him stand,
With a piece of French cambric, before him roll'd out,
And that horrid yard-measure uprais'd in his hand!
Oh — Papa, all along, knew the secret, 'tis clear —
'Twas *a shopman* he meant by a "Brandenburgh," dear!
The man, whom I fondly had fancied a King,
And, when *that* too delightful illusion was past,
As a hero had worshipp'd — vile, treacherous thing —
To turn out but a low linen-draper at last!
My head swam around — the wretch smil'd, I believe,
But his smiling, alas, could no longer deceive —
I fell back on Bob — my whole heart seem'd to wither —
And, pale as a ghost, I was carried back hither!
I only remember that Bob, as I caught him,
With cruel facetiousness said, "Curse the Kiddy!
"A staunch Revolutionist always I've thought him,
"But now I find out he's a *Counter* one, Biddy!"

Only think, my dear creature, if this should be known
To that saucy, satirical thing, Miss Malone!
What a story 'twill be at Shandangan for ever!
What laughs and what quizzing she'll have with the men!
It will spread through the country — and never, oh, never
Can Biddy be seen at Kilrandy again!
Farewell — I shall do something desp'rate, I fear —
And, ah! if my fate ever reaches your ear,
One tear of compassion my Doll will not grudge
To her poor — broken-hearted — young friend,
Biddy Fudge.

Nota bene — I am sure you will hear, with delight,
That we're going, all three, to see Brunet to-night,
A laugh will revive me — and kind Mr. Cox
(Do you know him?) has got us the Governor's box.

FABLES FOR THE HOLY ALLIANCE.

Tu Regibus alas
Eripe. VIRGIL, *Georg.* lib. iv.

—— Clip the wings
Of these high-flying, arbitrary Kings. DRYDEN'S *Translation.*

TO

LORD BYRON.

DEAR LORD BYRON,

THOUGH this Volume should possess no other merit in your eyes, than that of reminding you of the short time we passed together at Venice, when some of the trifles which it contains were written, you will, I am sure, receive the dedication of it with pleasure, and believe that I am,

My dear Lord,
Ever faithfully yours,
T. B.

PREFACE.

THOUGH it was the wish of the Members of the Poco-curante Society (who have lately done me the honour of electing me their Secretary) that I should prefix my name to the following Miscellany, it is but fair to them and to myself to state, that, except in the "painful pre-eminence" of being employed to transcribe their lucubrations, my claim to such a distinction in the title-page is not greater than that of any other gentleman, who has contributed his share to the contents of the volume.

I had originally intended to take this opportunity of giving some account of the origin and objects of our Institution, the names and characters of the different members, &c. &c. — but, as I am at present preparing for the press the First Volume of the "Transactions of the Poco-curante Society," I shall reserve for that occasion all further details upon the subject; and content myself here with referring, for a general insight into our tenets, to a Song which will be found at the end of this work, and which is sung to us on the first day of every month, by one of our oldest members, to the tune of (as far as I can recollect, being no musician,) either "Nancy Dawson" or "He stole away the Bacon."

It may be as well also to state, for the information of those critics, who attack with the hope of being answered, and of being, thereby, brought into notice, that it is the rule of this Society to return no other answer to such assailants, than is contained in the three words "Non curat Hippoclides," (meaning, in English, "Hippoclides does not care a fig,") which were spoken two thousand years ago by the first founder of Poco-curantism, and have ever since been adopted as the leading *dictum* of the sect.

THOMAS BROWN.

FABLES FOR THE HOLY ALLIANCE.

FABLE I.

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOLY ALLIANCE.

A DREAM.

I'VE had a dream that bodes no good
Unto the Holy Brotherhood.
I may be wrong, but I confess —
As far as it is right or lawful
For one, no conjurer, to guess —
It seems to me extremely awful.

Methought, upon the Neva's flood
A beautiful Ice Palace stood,
A dome of frost-work, on the plan
Of that once built by Empress Anne,[1]
Which shone by moonlight — as the tale is —
Like an Aurora Borealis.

In this said Palace, furnish'd all
And lighted as the best on land are,
I dreamt there was a splendid Ball,
Given by the Emperor Alexander,
To entertain with all due zeal,
Those holy gentlemen, who've shown a
Regard so kind for Europe's weal,
At Troppau, Laybach, and Verona.

[1] "It is well known that the Empress Anne built a palace of ice on the Neva, in 1740, which was fifty-two feet in length, and when illuminated had a surprising effect." — PINKERTON.

The thought was happy—and design'd
To hint how thus the human Mind
May, like the stream imprison'd there,
Be check'd and chill'd, till it can bear
The heaviest Kings, that ode or sonnet
E'er yet be-prais'd, to dance upon it.

And all were pleas'd, and cold, and stately,
Shivering in grand illumination—
Admir'd the superstructure greatly,
Nor gave one thought to the foundation.
Much too the Czar himself exulted,
To all plebeian fears a stranger,
For, Madame Krudener, when consulted,
Had pledg'd her word there was no danger.
So, on he caper'd, fearless quite,
Thinking himself extremely clever,
And waltz'd away with all his might,
As if the Frost would last for ever.

Just fancy how a bard like me,
Who reverence monarchs, must have trembled
To see that goodly company,
At such a ticklish sport assembled.

Nor were the fears, that thus astounded
My loyal soul, at all unfounded—
For, lo! ere long, those walls so massy
Were seiz'd with an ill-omen'd dripping,
And o'er the floors, now growing glassy,
Their Holinesses took to slipping.
The Czar, half through a Polonaise,
Could scarce get on for downright stumbling;
And Prussia, though to slippery ways
Well used, was cursedly near tumbling.

Yet still 'twas, *who* could stamp the floor most,
Russia and Austria 'mong the foremost.—
And now, to an Italian air,
This precious brace would, hand in hand, go;
Now—while old Louis, from his chair,
Intreated them his toes to spare—
Call'd loudly out for a Fandango.

And a Fandango, 'faith, they had,
At which they all set to, like mad!
Never were Kings (though small the' expense is
Of wit among their Excellencies)
So out of all their princely senses.
But, ah, that dance—that Spanish dance—
Scarce was the luckless strain begun,
When, glaring red, as 'twere a glance
Shot from an angry Southern sun,
A light through all the chambers flam'd,
Astonishing old Father Frost,
Who, bursting into tears, exclaim'd,
"A thaw, by Jove—we're lost, we're lost;
"Run, France—a second *Water*loo
"Is come to drown you—*sauve qui peut!*"

Why, why will monarchs caper so
In palaces without foundations?—
Instantly all was in a flow,
Crowns, fiddles, sceptres, decorations—
Those Royal Arms, that look'd so nice,
Cut out in the resplendent ice—
Those Eagles, handsomely provided
With double heads for double dealings—
How fast the globes and sceptres glided
Out of their claws on all the ceilings!
Proud Prussia's double bird of prey
Tame as a spatch cock, slunk away;
While—just like France herself, when she
Proclaims how great her naval skill is—
Poor Louis' drowning fleurs-de-lys
Imagin'd themselves *water*-lilies.

And not alone rooms, ceilings, shelves,
But—still more fatal execution—
The Great Legitimates themselves
Seem'd in a state of dissolution.
The' indignant Czar—when just about
To issue a sublime Ukase,
"Whereas all light must be kept out"—
Dissolv'd to nothing in its blaze.
Next Prussia took his turn to melt,
And, while his lips illustrious felt
The influence of this southern air,
Some word, like "Constitution"—long
Congeal'd in frosty silence there—
Came slowly thawing from his tongue.
While Louis, lapsing by degrees,
And sighing out a faint adieu
To truffles, salmis, toasted cheese
And smoking *fondus*, quickly grew,
Himself, into a *fondu* too;—
Or like that goodly King they make
Of sugar for a Twelfth-night cake,
When, in some urchin's mouth, alas,
It melts into a shapeless mass!

In short, I scarce could count a minute,
Ere the bright dome, and all within it,
Kings, Fiddlers, Emperors, all were gone—
And nothing now was seen or heard
But the bright river, rushing on,
Happy as an enfranchis'd bird,
And prouder of that natural ray,
Shining along its chainless way—
More proudly happy thus to glide
In simple grandeur to the sea,
Than when, in sparkling fetters tied,
'Twas deck'd with all that kingly pride
Could bring to light its slavery!

Such is my dream — and, I confess,
I tremble at its awfulness.
That Spanish Dance — that southern beam —
But I say nothing — there's my dream —
And Madame Krudener, the she-prophet,
May make just what she pleases of it.

FABLE II.

THE LOOKING-GLASSES.

PROEM.

WHERE Kings have been by mob-elections
Rais'd to the Throne, 'tis strange to see
What different and what odd perfections
Men have requir'd in Royalty.
Some, liking monarchs large and plumpy,
Have chos'n their Sovereigns by the weight; —
Some wish'd them tall, some thought your dumpy,
Dutch-built, the true Legitimate.[1]
The Easterns in a Prince, 'tis said,
Prefer what's called a jolter-head:[2]
The' Egyptians wer'n't at all particular,
So that their Kings had *not* red hair —
This fault not even the greatest stickler
For the blood royal well could bear.
A thousand more such illustrations
Might be adduc'd from various nations.
But, 'mong the many tales they tell us,
Touching the' acquir'd or natural right
Which some men have to rule their fellows,
There's one, which I shall here recite: —

FABLE.

There was a land — to *name* the place
Is neither now my wish nor duty —
Where reign'd a certain Royal race,
By right of their superior beauty.

What was the cut legitimate
Of these great persons's chins and noses,
By right of which they rul'd the state,
No history I have seen discloses.

But so it was — a settled case —
Some Act of Parliament, pass'd snugly,
Had voted *them* a beauteous race,
And all their faithful subjects ugly.

As rank, indeed, stood high or low,
Some change it made in visual organs;
Your Peers were décent — Knights, so so —
But all your *common* people, gorgons!

Of course, if any knave had hinted
That the King's nose was turned awry,
Or that the Queen (God bless her!) squinted —
The judges doom'd that knave to die.

But rarely things like this occurr'd,
The people to their King were duteous,
And took it, on his Royal word,
That they were frights, and He was beauteous.

The cause whereof, among all classes,
Was simply this — these island elves
Had never yet seen looking-glasses,
And, therefore, did not *know themselves.*

Sometimes, indeed, their neighbours' faces
Might strike them as more full of reason,
More fresh than those in certain places —
But, Lord, the very thought was treason!

Besides, howe'er we love our neighbour,
And take his face's part, 'tis known
We ne'er so much in earnest labour,
As when the face attack'd's our own.

So, on they went — the crowd believing —
(As crowds well govern'd always do)
Their rulers, too, themselves deceiving —
So old the joke, they thought 'twas true.

But jokes, we know, if they too far go,
Must have an end — and so, one day,
Upon that coast there was a cargo
Of looking-glasses cast away.

'Twas said, some Radicals, somewhere,
Had laid their wicked heads together,
And forc'd that ship to founder there, —
While some believe it was the weather.

However this might be, the freight
Was landed without fees or duties;
And from that hour historians date
The downfall of the Race of Beauties.

The looking-glasses got about,
And grew so common through the land,
That scarce a tinker could walk out,
Without a mirror in his hand.

Comparing faces, morning, noon,
And night, their constant occupation —
By dint of looking-glasses, soon,
They grew a most reflecting nation.

[1] The Goths had a law to choose always a short, thick man for their King. — MUNSTER, *Cosmog.* lib. iii. p. 164.

[2] "In a Prince a jolter-head is invaluable."
Oriental Field Sports.

In vain the Court, aware of errors
In all the old, establish'd mazards,
Prohibited the use of mirrors,
And tried to break them at all hazards:—

In vain—their laws might just as well
Have been waste paper on the shelves;
That fatal freight had broke the spell;
People had look'd—and knew themselves.

If chance a Duke, of birth sublime,
Presum'd upon his ancient face,
(Some calf-head, ugly from all time,)
They popp'd a mirror to his Grace:—

Just hinting, by that gentle sign,
How little Nature holds it true,
That what is call'd an ancient line,
Must be the line of Beauty too.

From Duke's they pass'd to regal phizzes,
Compar'd them proudly with their own,
And cried, "How *could* such monstrous quizzes
"In Beauty's name usurp the throne!"—

They then wrote essays, pamphlets, books,
Upon Cosmetical Œconomy,
Which made the King try various looks,
But none improv'd his physiognomy.

And satires at the Court were levell'd,
And small lampoons, so full of slynesses,
That soon, in short, they quite be-devil'd
Their Majesties and Royal Highnesses.

At length—but here I drop the veil,
To spare some loyal folks' sensations;
Besides, what follow'd is the tale
Of all such late enlighten'd nations;

Of all to whom old Time discloses
A truth they should have sooner known—
That Kings have neither rights nor noses
A whit diviner than their own.

FABLE III.

THE TORCH OF LIBERTY.

I SAW it all in Fancy's glass—
Herself, the fair, the wild magician,
Who bid this splendid day-dream pass,
And nam'd each gliding apparition.

'Twas like a torch-race—such as they
Of Greece perform'd, in ages gone,
When the fleet youths, in long array,
Pass'd the bright torch triumphant on.

I saw the' expectant nations stand,
To catch the coming flame in turn;—
I saw, from ready hand to hand,
The clear, though struggling, glory burn.

And, oh, their joy, as it came near,
'Twas, in itself, a joy to see;—
While Fancy whisper'd in my ear,
"That torch they pass is Liberty!"

And, each, as she receiv'd the flame,
Lighted her altar with its ray;
Then, smiling, to the next who came,
Speeded it on its sparkling way.

From ALBION first, whose ancient shrine
Was furnish'd with the fire already,
COLUMBIA caught the boon divine,
And lit a flame, like Albion's, steady.

The splendid gift then GALLIA took,
And, like a wild Bacchante, raising
The brand aloft, its sparkles shook,
As she would set the world a-blazing!

Thus kindling wild, so fierce and high
Her altar blaz'd into the air,
That ALBION, to that fire too nigh,
Shrunk back, and shudder'd at its glare!

Next, SPAIN, so new was light to her,
Leap'd at the torch—but, ere the spark
That fell upon her shrine could stir,
'Twas quench'd—and all again was dark.

Yet, no—*not* quench'd—a treasure, worth
So much to mortals, rarely dies:
Again her living light look'd forth,
And shone, a beacon, in all eyes.

Who next receiv'd the flame? alas,
Unworthy NAPLES—shame of shames,
That ever through such hands should pass
That brightest of all earthly flames!

Scarce had her fingers touch'd the torch,
When, frighted by the sparks it shed,
Nor waiting even to feel the scorch,
She dropp'd it to the earth—and fled.

And fall'n it might have long remain'd;
But GREECE, who saw her moment now,
Caught up the prize, though prostrate, stain'd,
And wav'd it round her beauteous brow.

And Fancy bade me mark where, o'er
Her altar, as its flame ascended,
Fair, laurell'd spirits seem'd to soar,
Who thus in song their voices blended:—

"Shine, shine for ever, glorious Flame,
"Divinest gift of Gods to men!
"From GREECE thy earliest splendour came,
"To GREECE thy ray returns again.

"Take, Freedom, take thy radiant round,
"When dimm'd, revive, when lost, return,
"Till not a shrine through earth be found,
"On which thy glories shall not burn!"

FABLE IV

THE FLY AND THE BULLOCK.

PROEM.

OF all that, to the sage's survey,
This world presents of topsy-turvy,
There's nought so much disturbs one's patience,
As little minds in lofty stations.
'Tis like that sort of painful wonder,
Which slender columns, labouring under
Enormous arches, give beholders;—
Or those poor Caryatides,
Condemn'd to smile and stand at ease,
With a whole house upon their shoulders.

If, as in some few royal cases,
Small minds are *born* into such places—
If they are there, by Right Divine,
Or any such sufficient reason,
Why—Heav'n forbid we should repine!—
To wish it otherwise were treason;
Nay, ev'n to see it in a vision,
Would be what lawyers call *misprision*.

Sir ROBERT FILMER saith—and he,
Of course, knew all about the matter—
"Both men and beasts love Monarchy;"
Which proves how rational—the *latter*.
SIDNEY, we know, or wrong or right,
Entirely differ'd from the Knight!
Nay, hints a King may lose his head,
By slipping awkwardly his bridle:—
But this is treasonous, ill-bred,
And (now-a-days, when Kings are led
In patent snaffles) downright idle.

No, no—it isn't right-line Kings,
(Those sovereign lords in leading-strings
Who, from their birth, are Faith-Defenders,)
That move my wrath—'tis your pretenders,
Your mushroom rulers, sons of earth,
Who—not, like t'others, bores by birth,
Establish'd *gratiâ Dei* blockheads,
Born with three kingdoms in their pockets—
Yet, with a brass that nothing stops,
Push up into the loftiest stations,
And, though too dull to manage shops,
Presume, the dolts, to manage nations!

This class it is, that moves my gall,
And stirs up bile, and spleen, and all.
While other senseless things appear
To know the limits of their sphere—
While not a cow on earth romances
So much as to conceit she dances—
While the most jumping frog we know of,
Would scarce at Astley's hope to show off—
Your * * *s, your * * *s dare,
Untrain'd as are their minds, to set them
To *any* business, *any* where,
At *any* time that fools will let them.

But leave we here these upstart things—
My business is, just now, with Kings;
To whom, and to their right-line glory,
I dedicate the following story.

FABLE.

THE wise men of Egypt were secret as dummies;
And, ev'n when they most condescended to teach,
They pack'd up their meaning, as they did their mummies,
In so many wrappers, 'twas out of one's reach.

They were also, good people, much given to Kings—
Fond of craft and of crocodiles, monkeys and mystery;
But blue-bottle flies were their best belov'd things—
As will partly appear in this very short history.

A Scythian philospher (nephew, they say,
To that other great traveller, young Anacharsis),
Stept into a temple at Memphis one day,
To have a short peep at their mystical farces.

He saw[1] a brisk blue-bottle Fly on an altar,
Made much of, and worshipp'd, as something divine;

[1] According to Ælian, it was in the island of Leucadia they practised this ceremony—Θυειν βουν ταις μυιαις.—*De Animal.* lib. ii. cap. 8.

While a large, handsome Bullock, led there in a halter,
Before it lay stabb'd at the foot of the shrine.

Surpris'd at such doings, he whisper'd his teacher—
"If 'tisn't impertinent, may I ask why
"Should a Bullock, that useful and powerful creature,
"Be thus offer'd up to a blue-bottle Fly?"

"No wonder"—said t'other—"you stare at the sight,
"But *we* as a Symbol of Monarchy view it—
"That Fly on the shrine is Legitimate Right,
"And that Bullock, the People, that's sacrific'd to it."

FABLE V.

CHURCH AND STATE.

PROEM.

"The moment any religion becomes national, or established, its purity must certainly be lost, because it is then impossible to keep it unconnected with men's interests; and, if connected, it must inevitably be perverted by them."—SOAME JENYNS.

THUS did SOAME JENYNS—though a Tory,
A Lord of Trade and the Plantations;
Feel how Religion's simple glory
Is stain'd by State associations.

When CATHERINE, ere she crush'd the Poles,
Appeal'd to the benign Divinity;
Then cut them up in protocols,
Made fractions of their very souls[1]—
All in the name of the bless'd Trinity;
Or when her grandson, ALEXANDER,
That mighty Northern salamander,[2]
Whose icy touch, felt all about,
Puts every fire of Freedom out—
When he, too, winds up his Ukases
With God and the Panagia's praises—
When he, of royal Saints the type,
In holy water dips the spunge,
With which, at one imperial wipe,
He would all human rights expunge;
When LOUIS (whom as King, and eater,
Some name *Dix-huit* and some *Des-huîtres*,)
Calls down "St. Louis' God" to witness
The right, humanity, and fitness
Of sending eighty thousand Solons,
Sages, with muskets and lac'd coats,
To cram instruction, nolens volens,
Down the poor struggling Spaniards' throats—
I can't help thinking, (though to Kings
I must, of course, like other men, bow,)
That when a Christian monarch brings
Religion's name to gloss these things—
Such blasphemy out-Benbows Benbow![3]

Or—not so far for facts to roam,
Having a few much nearer home—
When we see Churchmen, who, if ask'd,
"Must Ireland's slaves be tith'd, and task'd,
"And driv'n like Negroes or Croäts,
"That *you* may roll in wealth and bliss?"
Look from beneath their shovel hats
With all due pomp, and answer "Yes!"
But then, if question'd, "Shall the brand
"Intolerance flings throughout that land,—
"Shall the fierce strife now taught to grow
"Betwixt her palaces and hovels,
"Be ever quench'd?"—from the same shovels
Look grandly forth, and answer "No."—
Alas, alas! have *these* a claim
To merciful Religion's name?
If more you seek, go see a bevy
Of bowing parsons at a levee—
(Choosing your time, when straw's before
Some apoplectic bishop's door,)
Then, if thou canst, with life, escape
That rush of lawn, that press of crape,
Just watch their rev'rences and graces,
As on each smirking suitor frisks,
And say, if those round shining faces
To heav'n or earth most turn their disks?

This, this it is—Religion, made,
'Twixt Church and State, a truck, a trade—
This most ill-match'd, unholy *Co.*,
From whence the ills we witness flow;
The war of many creeds with one—
The' extremes of *too* much faith, and none—
Till, betwixt ancient trash and new,
'Twixt Cant and Blasphemy—the two
Rank ills with which this age is curst—
We can no more tell *which* is worst,
Than erst could Egypt, when so rich
In various plagues, determine which
She thought most pestilent and vile,
Her frogs, like Benbow and Carlisle,

[1] *Ames, demi-âmes*, &c.

[2] The salamander is supposed to have the power of extinguishing fire by its natural coldness and moisture.

[3] A well-known publisher of irreligious books.

Croaking their native mud-notes loud,
Or her fat locusts, like a cloud
Of pluralists, obesely low'ring,
At once benighting and devouring!

This—this it is—and here I pray
Those sapient wits of the Reviews,
Who make us poor, dull authors say,
Not what we mean, but what they choose;
Who to our most abundant shares
Of nonsense add still more of theirs,
And are to poets just such evils
As caterpillars find those flies,[1]
Which, not content to sting like devils,
Lay eggs upon their backs likewise—
To guard against such foul deposits
Of other's meaning in my rhymes,
(A thing more needful here, because it's
A subject, ticklish in these times)—
I, here, to all such wits make known,
Monthly and Weekly, Whig and Tory,
'Tis *this* Religion—this alone
I aim at in the following story:—

FABLE.

When Royalty was young and bold,
Ere, touch'd by Time, he had become
If 'tisn't civil to say *old*,
At least, a *ci-devant jeune homme*;

One evening, on some wild pursuit
Driving along, he chanc'd to see
Religion, passing by on foot,
And took him in his vis-à-vis.

This said Religion was a Friar,
The humblest and the best of men,
Who ne'er had notion or desire
Of riding in a coach till then.

"I say"—quoth Royalty, who rather
Enjoy'd a masquerading joke—
"I say, suppose, my good old father,
"You lend me, for a while, your cloak."

The Friar consented—little knew
What tricks the youth had in his head;
Besides, was rather tempted too
By a lac'd coat he got in stead.

Away ran Royalty, slap-dash,
Scamp'ring like mad about the town;
Broke windows, shiver'd lamps to smash,
And knock'd whole scores of watchmen down.

While nought could they, whose heads were broke,
Learn of the "why" or the "wherefore,"
Except that 'twas Religion's cloak,
The gentleman, who crack'd them, wore.

Meanwhile, the Friar, whose head was turn'd
By the lac'd coat, grew frisky too;
Look'd big—his former habits spurn'd—
And storm'd about, as great men do:

Dealt much in pompous oaths and curses—
Said "d—mn you" often, or as bad—
Laid claim to other people's purses—
In short, grew either knave, or mad.

As work like this was unbefitting,
And flesh and blood no longer bore it,
The Court of Common Sense, then sitting,
Summon'd the culprits both before it.

Where, after hours in wrangling spent
(As Courts must wrangle to decide well),
Religion to St. Luke's was sent,
And Royalty pack'd off to Bridewell.

With this proviso—should they be
Restor'd, in due time, to their senses,
They both must give security,
In future, against such offences—

Religion ne'er to *lend his cloak*,
Seeing what dreadful work it leads to;
And Royalty to crack his joke,—
But *not* to crack poor people's heads too.

FABLE VI.

THE LITTLE GRAND LAMA.

PROEM.

Novella, a young Bolognese,
The daughter of a learn'd Law Doctor,[2]
Who had with all the subtleties
Of old and modern jurists stock'd her,
Was so exceeding fair, 'tis said,
And over hearts held such dominion,

[1] "The greatest number of the ichneumon tribe are seen settling upon the back of the caterpillar, and darting at different intervals their stings into its body—at every dart they depose an egg."—Goldsmith.

[2] Andreas.

That when her father, sick in bed,
Or busy, sent her, in his stead,
To lecture on the Code Justinian,
She had a curtain drawn before her,
Lest, if her charms were seen, the students
Should let their young eyes wander o'er her,
And quite forget their jurisprudence.[1]
Just so it is with truth, when *seen*,
Too dazzling far, — 'tis from behind
A light, thin allegoric screen,
She thus can safest teach mankind.

FABLE.

In Thibet once there reign'd, we're told,
A little Lama, one year old —
Rais'd to the throne, that realm to bless,
Just when his little Holiness
Had cut — as near as can be reckon'd —
Some say his *first* tooth, some his *second*.
Chronologers and Nurses vary,
Which proves historians should be wary.
We only know the' important truth,
His Majesty *had* cut a tooth.[2]
And much his subjects were enchanted, —
As well all Lamas' subjects *may* be,
And would have giv'n their heads, if wanted,
To make tee-totums for the baby.
Thron'd as he was by Right Divine —
(What Lawyers call *Jure Divino*,
Meaning a right to yours, and mine,
And every body's goods and rhino,)
Of course, his faithful subjects' purses
Were ready with their aids and succours;
Nothing was seen but pension'd Nurses,
And the land groan'd with bibs and tuckers.

Oh! had there been a Hume or Bennet,
Then sitting in the Thibet Senate,
Ye Gods, what room for long debates
Upon the Nursery Estimates!
What cutting down of swaddling-clothes
And pin-a-fores, in nightly battles!
What calls for papers to expose
The waste of sugar-plums and rattles!
But no — if Thibet *had* M.P.'s,
They were far better bred than these;
Nor gave the slightest opposition,
During the Monarch's whole dentition.

But short this calm; — for, just when he
Had reach'd the' alarming age of three,
When Royal natures, and, no doubt,
Those of *all* noble beasts break out —
The Lama, who till then was quiet,
Show'd symptoms of a taste for riot;
And, ripe for mischief, early, late,
Without regard for Church or State,
Made free with whosoe'er came nigh;
Tweak'd the Lord Chancellor by the nose,
Turn'd all the Judges' wigs awry,
And trod on the old Generals' toes:
Pelted the Bishops with hot buns,
Rode cockhorse on the City maces,
And shot from little devilish guns,
Hard peas into his subjects' faces.
In short, such wicked pranks he play'd,
And grew so mischievous, God bless him!
That his Chief Nurse — with ev'n the aid
Of an Archbishop — was afraid,
When in these moods, to comb or dress him.
Nay, ev'n the persons most inclin'd
Through thick and thin, for Kings to stickle,
Thought him (if they'd but speak their mind,
Which they did *not*) an odious pickle.

At length some patriot lords — a breed
Of animals they've got in Thibet,
Extremely rare, and fit, indeed,
For folks like Pidcock, to exhibit —
Some patriot lords, who saw the length
To which things went, combin'd their strength,
And penn'd a manly, plain and free
Remonstrance to the Nursery;
Protesting warmly that they yielded
To none, that ever went before 'em,
In loyalty to him who wielded
The' hereditary pap-spoon o'er 'em;
That, as for treason, 'twas a thing
That made them almost sick to think of —
That they and theirs stood by the King,
Throughout his measles and his chin-cough,
When others, thinking him consumptive,
Had ratted to the Heir Presumptive! —
But, still — though much admiring Kings
(And chiefly those in leading-strings),
They saw, with shame and grief of soul,
There was no longer now the wise
And constitutional control
Of *birch* before their ruler's eyes;

[1] Quand il étoit occupé d'aucune essoine, il envoyoit Novelle, sa fille, en son lieu lire aux escholes en charge, et, afin que la biaüté d'elle n'empêchât la pensée des oyants, elle avoit une petite courtine devant elle. — *Christ. de Pise, Cité des Dames*, p. 11. cap. 36.

[2] See Turner's Embassy to Thibet for an account of his interview with the Lama. — "Teshoo Lama (he says) was at this time eighteen months old. Though he was unable to speak a word, he made the most expressive signs, and conducted himself with astonishing *dignity* and decorum."

But that, of late, such pranks, and tricks,
And freaks occurr'd the whole day long,
As all, but men with bishopricks,
Allow'd, in ev'n a King, were wrong.
Wherefore it was they humbly pray'd
That Honourable Nursery,
That such reforms be henceforth made,
As all good men desir'd to see ; —
In other words (lest they might seem
Too tedious), as the gentlest scheme
For putting all such pranks to rest,
And in its bud the mischief nipping —
They ventur'd humbly to suggest
His Majesty should have a whipping !

When this was read, no Congreve rocket,
Discharg'd into the Gallic trenches,
E'er equall'd the tremendous shock it
Produc'd upon the Nursery benches.
The Bishops, who of course had votes,
By right of age and petticoats,
Were first and foremost in the fuss —
"What, whip a Lama! suffer birch
"To touch his sacred —— infamous !
"Deistical ! — assailing thus
"The fundamentals of the Church ! —
"No — no — such patriot plans as these,
"(So help them Heaven — and their Sees!)
"They held to be rank blasphemies."

The' alarm thus given, by these and other
Grave ladies of the Nursery side,
Spread through the land, till, such a pother,
Such party squabbles, far and wide,
Never in history's page had been
Recorded, as were then between
The Whippers and Non-whippers seen.
Till, things arriving at a state,
Which gave some fears of revolution,
The patriot lords' advice, though late,
Was put at last in execution.
The Parliament of Thibet met —
The little Lama, call'd before it,
Did, then and there, his whipping get,
And (as the Nursery Gazette
Assures us) like a hero bore it.

And though, 'mong Thibet Tories, some
Lament that Royal Martyrdom
(Please to observe, the letter D
In this last word 's pronounc'd like B),
Yet to the' example of that Prince
So much is Thibet's land a debtor,
That her long line of Lamas, since,
Have all behav'd themselves *much* better.

FABLE VII.

THE EXTINGUISHERS.

PROEM.

THOUGH soldiers are the true supports,
The natural allies of Courts,
Woe to the Monarch, who depends
Too *much* on his red-coated friends ;
For even soldiers sometimes *think* —
Nay, Colonels have been known to *reason*,—
And reasoners, whether clad in pink,
Or red, or blue, are on the brink
(Nine cases out of ten) of treason.

Not many soldiers, I believe, are
As fond of liberty as Mina ;
Else — woe to kings, when Freedom's fever
Once turns into a *Scarletina !*
For then — but hold 'tis best to veil
My meaning in the following tale : —

FABLE.

A Lord of Persia, rich and great,
Just come into a large estate,
Was shock'd to find he had, for neighbours,
Close to his gate, some rascal Ghebers,
Whose fires, beneath his very nose,
In heretic combustion rose.
But Lords of Persia can, no doubt,
Do what they will — so, one fine morning,
He turn'd the rascal Ghebers out,
First giving a few kicks for warning.
Then, thanking Heaven most piously,
He knock'd their Temple to the ground,
Blessing himself for joy to see
Such Pagan ruins strew'd around.
But much it vex'd my Lord to find,
That, while all else obey'd his will,
The Fire these Ghebers left behind,
Do what he would, kept burning still.
Fiercely he storm'd, as if his frown
Could scare the bright insurgent down ;
But, no — such fires are headstrong things,
And care not much for Lords or Kings.
Scarce could his Lordship well contrive
The flashes in *one* place to smother,
Before — hey presto ! — all alive,
They sprung up freshly in another.

At length when, spite of prayers and damns,
'Twas found the sturdy flame defied him,
His stewards came, with low *salams*,
Off'ring, by *contract*, to provide him

Some large Extinguishers, (a plan,
Much us'd, they said, at Ispahan,
Vienna, Petersburgh — in short,
Wherever Light's forbid at court,)
Machines no Lord should be without,
Which would, at once, put promptly out
All kinds of fires, — from staring, stark
Volcanos to the tiniest spark ;
Till all things slept as dull and dark,
As, in a great Lord's neighbourhood,
'Twas right and fitting all things should.

Accordingly, some large supplies
Of these Extinguishers were furnish'd
(All of the true Imperial size),
And there, in rows, stood black and burnish'd,
Ready, where'er a gleam but shone
Of light or fire, to be clapp'd on.

But, ah, how lordly wisdom errs,
In trusting to extinguishers !
One day, when he had left all sure,
(At least, so thought he) dark, secure —
The flame, at all its exits, entries,
Obstructed to his heart's content,
And black extinguishers, like sentries,
Plac'd over every dangerous vent —
Ye Gods, imagine his amaze,
His wrath, his rage, when, on returning,
He found not only the old blaze,
Brisk as before, crackling and burning,
Not only new, young conflagrations,
Popping up round in various stations —
But, still more awful, strange, and dire,
The' Extinguishers themselves on fire ! ![1]
They, they — those trusty, blind machines
His Lordship had so long been praising,
As, under Providence, the means
Of keeping down all lawless blazing,
Were now, themselves — alas, too true
The shameful fact — turn'd blazers too,
And, by a change as odd as cruel,
Instead of dampers, serv'd for fuel !

Thus, of his only hope bereft,
"What," said the great man, "must be done ?"
All that, in scrapes like this, is left
To great men is — to cut and run.
So run he did ; while to their grounds,
The banish'd Ghebers blest return'd ;
And, though their Fire had broke its bounds,
And all abroad now wildly burn'd,
Yet well could they, who lov'd the flame,
Its wand'ring, its excess reclaim ;
And soon another, fairer Dome
Arose to be its sacred home,
Where, cherish'd, guarded, not confin'd,
The living glory dwelt inshrin'd,
And, shedding lustre strong, but even,
Though born of earth, grew worthy heav'n.

MORAL.

The moral hence my Muse infers
Is, that such Lords are simple elves,
In trusting to Extinguishers,
That are combustible themselves.

FABLE VIII.

LOUIS FOURTEENTH'S WIG.

The money rais'd — the army ready —
Drums beating, and the Royal Neddy
Valiantly braying in the van,
To the old tune "*Eh, eh, Sire Ane !*" —[2]
Nought wanting, but some *coup* dramatic,
To make French *sentiment* explode,
Bring in, at once, the *goût* fanatic,
And make the war "*la dernière mode*" —
Instantly, at the *Pav'llon Marsan*,
Is held an Ultra consultation —
What's to be done, to help the farce on ?
What stage-effect, what decoration,
To make this beauteous France forget,
In one grand, glorious *pirouette*,
All she had sworn to but last week,
And, with a cry of "*Magnifique !*"
Rush forth to this, or *any* war,
Without inquiring once — "What for ?"

After some plans propos'd by each,
Lord Châteaubriand made a speech,
(Quoting, to shew what men's rights are,
Or rather what men's rights *should be*,
From Hobbes, Lord Castlereagh, the Czar,
And other friends to Liberty,)

[1] The idea of this Fable was caught from one of those brilliant *mots* which abound in the conversation of my friend, the author of the "Letters to Julia," — a production which contains some of the happiest specimens of playful poetry that have appeared in this or any age.

[2] They celebrated in the dark ages, at many churches, particularly at Rouen, what was called the Feast of the Ass. On this occasion the ass, finely drest, was brought before the altar, and they sung before him this elegant anthem, "Eh, eh, eh, Sire Ane, eh, eh, eh, Sire Ane." — WARTON's *Essay on Pope*.

Wherein he — having first protested
'Gainst humouring the mob — suggested
(As the most high-bred plan he saw
For giving the new War *éclat*)
A grand, Baptismal Melo-drame,
To be got up at Nôtre-Dame,
In which the Duke (who, bless his Highness!
Had by his *hilt* acquir'd such fame,
'Twas hop'd that he as little shyness
Would show, when to *the point* he came,)
Should, for his deeds so lion-hearted,
Be christen'd *Hero*, ere he started;
With power, by Royal Ordonnance,
To bear that name — at least in France.
Himself — the Viscount Châteaubriand —
(To help the' affair with more *esprit* on)
Off'ring, for this baptismal rite,
Some of his own fam'd Jordan water — [1]
(Marie Louise not having quite
Us'd all that, for young Nap, he brought her,)
The baptism, in *this* case, to be
Applied to that extremity,
Which Bourbon heroes most expose;
And which (as well all Europe knows)
Happens to be, in this Defender
Of the true Faith, extremely tender. [2]

Or if (the Viscount said) this scheme
Too rash and premature should seem —
If thus discounting heroes, *on* tick —
This glory, by anticipation,
Was too much in the *genre romantique*
For such a highly classic nation,
He begg'd to say, the Abyssinians
A practice had in their dominions,
Which, if at Paris got up well,
In full *costume*, was sure to tell.
At all great epochs, good or ill,
They have, says Bruce (and Bruce ne'er budges
From the strict truth), a grand Quadrille
In public danc'd by the Twelve Judges — [3]
And, he assures us, the grimaces,
The *entre-chats*, the airs and graces
Of dancers, so profound and stately,
Divert the Abyssinians greatly.

"Now (said the Viscount), there's but few
"Great Empires, where this plan would do:
"For instance, England; — let them take
"What pains they would — 'twere vain to strive —
"The twelve stiff Judges there would make
"The worst Quadrille-set now alive.
"One must have seen them, ere one could
"Imagine properly Judge Wood,
"Performing, in his wig, so gaily,
"A *queue-de-chat* with Justice Bailey!
"*French* Judges, though, are, by no means,
"This sort of stiff, be-wigg'd machines!
"And we, who've seen them at *Saumur*,
"And *Poitiers* lately, may be sure
"They'd dance quadrilles, or any thing,
"That would be pleasing to the King —
"Nay, stand upon their heads, and more do,
"To please the little Duke de Bordeaux!"

After these several schemes there came
Some others — needless now to name,
Since that, which Monsieur plann'd, himself,
Soon doom'd all others to the shelf,
And was receiv'd *par acclamation*,
As truly worthy the *Grande Nation*.

It seems (as Monsieur told the story)
That Louis the Fourteenth, — that glory,
That *Coryphée* of all crown'd pates, —
That pink of the Legitimates —
Had, when, with many a pious pray'r, he
Bequeath'd unto the Virgin Mary
His marriage deeds, and *cordon bleu*, [4]
Bequeath'd to her his State Wig too —
(An off'ring which, at Court, 'tis thought,
The Virgin values as she ought) —
That Wig, the wonder of all eyes,
The Cynosure of Gallia's skies,
To watch and tend whose curls ador'd,
Re-build its tow'ring roof, when flat,
And round its rumpled base, a Board
Of sixty Barbers daily sat, [5]
With Subs, on State-Days, to assist,
Well pension'd from the Civil List: —

[1] Brought from the river Jordan by M. Châteaubriand, and presented to the French Empress for the christening of young Napoleon.

[2] See the Duke's celebrated letter to madame, written during his campaign in 1815, in which he says, "J'ai le postérieur légèrement endommagé."

[3] "On certain great occasions, the twelve Judges (who are generally between sixty and seventy years of age) sing the song and dance the figure-dance," &c. — Book v.

[4] "Louis XIV. fit présent à la Vierge de son cordon bleu, que l'on conserve soigneusement, et lui envoya ensuite, son Contrat de Mariage et le *Traité des Pyrenées*, magnifiquement relié." — *Mémoires, Anecdotes pour servir*, &c.

[5] The learned author of *Recherches Historiques sur les Perruques* says that the Board consisted but of Forty — the same number as the Academy. "Le plus beau tems des perruques fut celui où Louis XIV. commença à porter, lui-même, perruque; . . . . . On ignore l'époque où se fit cette révolution; mais on sait qu'elle engagea Louis le Grand à y donner ses soins paternels, en créant, en 1656, quarante charges de perruquiers, suivant la cour; et en 1673, il forma un corps de deux cents perruquiers pour la Ville de Paris." — P. 111.

That wond'rous Wig, array'd in which
And form'd alike to awe or witch,
He beat all other heirs of crowns,
In taking mistresses and towns,
Requiring but a shot at *one*,
A smile at *t'other*, and 'twas done!—

"That Wig" (said Monsieur, while his brow
Rose proudly,) "is existing now;—
"That Grand Perruque, amid the fall
"Of ev'ry other Royal glory,
"With curls erect survives them all,
"And tells in ev'ry hair their story.
"Think, think, how welcome at this time
"A relic, so belov'd, sublime!
"What worthier standard of the Cause
"Of Kingly Right can France demand?
"Or who among our ranks can pause
"To guard it, while a curl shall stand?
"Behold, my friends"—(while thus he cried,
A curtain, which conceal'd this pride
Of Princely Wigs was drawn aside)
"Behold that grand Perruque—how big
"With recollections for the world—
"For France—for us—Great Louis' Wig,
"By Hippolyte[1] new frizz'd and curl'd—
"*New frizz'd!* alas, 'tis but too true,
"Well may you start at that word *new*—
"But such the sacrifice, my friends,
"The' Imperial Cossack recommends;
"Thinking such small concessions sage,
"To meet the spirit of the age,
"And do what best that spirit flatters,
"In Wigs—if not in weightier matters.
"Wherefore, to please the Czar, and show
"That *we* too, much-wrong'd Bourbons, know
"What liberalism in Monarchs is,
"We have conceded the New Friz!
"Thus arm'd, ye gallant Ultras, say,
"Can men, can Frenchmen, fear the fray?
"With this proud relic in our van,
"And D'Angoulême our worthy leader,
"Let rebel Spain do all she can,
"Let recreant England arm and feed her,—
"Urg'd by that pupil of Hunt's school.
"That Radical, Lord Liverpool—
"France can have nought to fear—far from it—
"When once astounded Europe sees
"The wig of Louis, like a Comet,
"Streaming above the Pyrenées,
"All's o'er with Spain—then on, my sons,
"On, my incomparable Duke,
"And, shouting for the Holy Ones,
"Cry *Vive la Guerre—et la Perruque!*"

RHYMES ON THE ROAD,

EXTRACTED FROM THE JOURNAL OF A TRAVELLING MEMBER OF

THE POCO-CURANTE SOCIETY, 1819.

The greater part of the following Rhymes were written or composed in an old *calèche*, for the purpose of beguiling the *ennui* of solitary travelling; and as verses, made by a gentleman in his sleep, have been lately called "a *psychological* curiosity," it is to be hoped that verses, composed by a gentleman to keep himself awake, may be honoured with some appellation equally Greek.

[1] A celebrated *Coiffeur* of the present day.

RHYMES ON THE ROAD.

INTRODUCTORY RHYMES.

Different Attitudes in which Authors compose.—Bayes, Henry Stephens, Herodotus, &c.—Writing in Bed—in the Fields.—Plato and Sir Richard Blackmore.—Fiddling with Gloves and Twigs.—Madame de Staël.—Rhyming on the Road, in an old Calèche.

What various attitudes, and ways,
And tricks, we authors have in writing!
While some write sitting, some, like Bayes,
Usually stand, while they're inditing.

Poets there are, who wear the floor out,
Measuring a line at every stride;
While some, like HENRY STEPHENS, pour out
Rhymes by the dozen, while they ride.[1]
HERODOTUS wrote most in bed;
And RICHERAND, a French physician,
Declares the clock-work of the head
Goes best in that reclin'd position.
If you consult MONTAIGNE[2] and PLINY on
The subject, 'tis their joint opinion
That Thought its richest harvest yields
Abroad, among the woods and fields;
That bards, who deal in small retail,
At home may, at their counters, stop;
But that the grove, the hill, the vale,
Are Poesy's true wholesale shop.
And, verily, I think they're right—
For, many a time, on summer eves,
Just at that closing hour of light,
When, like an Eastern Prince, who leaves
For distant war his Haram bow'rs,
The Sun bids farewell to the flow'rs,
Whose heads are sunk, whose tears are flowing
Mid all the glory of his going!—
Ev'n *I* have felt, beneath those beams,
When wand'ring through the fields alone,
Thoughts, fancies, intellectual gleams,
Which, far too bright to be my own,
Seem'd lent me by the Sunny Pow'r,
That was abroad at that still hour.

If thus I've felt, how must *they* feel,
The few, whom genuine Genius warms;
Upon whose souls he stamps his seal,
Graven with Beauty's countless forms;—
The few upon this earth, who seem
Born to give truth to PLATO's dream,
Since in their thoughts, as in a glass,
Shadows of heavenly things appear,
Reflections of bright shapes that pass
Through other worlds, above our sphere!

But this reminds me I digress;—
For PLATO, too, produc'd, 'tis said,
(As one, indeed, might almost guess,)
His glorious visions all in bed.[3]

'Twas in his carriage the sublime
Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE used to rhyme;
And (if the wits don't do him wrong)
'Twixt death[4] and epics pass'd his time,
Scribbling and killing all day long—
Like Phœbus in his car, at ease,
Now warbling forth a lofty song,
Now murd'ring the young Niobes.

There was a hero 'mong the Danes,
Who wrote, we're told, 'mid all the pains
And horrors of exenteration,
Nine charming odes, which, if you'll look,
You'll find preserv'd, with a translation,
By BARTHOLINUS in his book.[5]
In short, 'twere endless to recite
The various modes in which men write.
Some wits are only in the mind,
When beaus and belles are round them prating;
Some, when they dress for dinner, find
Their muse and valet both in waiting;
And manage, at the self-same time,
To' adjust a neckcloth and a rhyme.

Some bards there are who cannot scribble
Without a glove, to tear or nibble;
Or a small twig to whisk about—
As if the hidden founts of Fancy,
Like wells of old, were thus found out
By mystic tricks of rhabdomancy.
Such was the little feathery wand,[6]
That, held for ever in the hand
Of her[7], who won and wore the crown
Of female genius in this age,
Seem'd the conductor, that drew down
Those words of lightning to her page.
As for myself—to come, at last,
To the odd way in which *I* write—
Having employ'd these few months past
Chiefly in travelling, day and night,
I've got into the easy mode,
Of rhyming thus along the road—
Making a way-bill of my pages,
Counting my stanzas by my stages—
'Twixt lays and *re*-lays no time lost—
In short, in two words, *writing post.*

[1] Pleraque sua carmina equitans composuit.—PARAVICIN. *Singular.*

[2] "Mes pensées dorment, si je les assis."—MONTAIGNE. Animus eorum qui in aperto aere ambulant, attollitur.—PLINY.

[3] The only authority I know for imputing this practice to Plato and Herodotus, is a Latin Poem by M. de Valois on his Bed, in which he says:—

Lucifer Herodotum vidit Vesperque cubantem,
Desedit totos heic Plato sæpe dies.

[4] Sir Richard Blackmore was a physician, as well as a bad poet.

[5] Eâdem curâ nec minores inter cruciatus animam infelicem agenti fuit Asbiorno Prudæ Danico heroi, cum Bruso ipsum, intestina extrahens, immaniter torqueret, tunc enim novem carmina cecinit, &c.—BARTHOLIN. *de Causis Contempt. Mort.*

[6] Made of paper, twisted up like a fan or feather.

[7] Madame de Staël.

View of the Lake of Geneva, before the Sun went down. Alps.—Mont Blanc.—Effect

'Twas late—the sun had alm
His last and best, when I ran on,
Anxious to reach that splendid view,
Before the day-beams quite withdrew;
And feeling as all feel, on first
Approaching scenes, where, they are told,
Such glories on their eyes will burst,
As youthful bards in dreams behold.

'Twas distant yet, and, as I ran,
Full often was my wistful gaze
Turn'd to the sun, who now began
To call in all his out-post rays,
And form a [illegible]
Such as bea[illegible]'s flight.
Oh, how I
To stay the b[illegible]
But no—the su[illegible]
Diminish'd to a
And
Th[illegible]

'Twas
T[illegible]
Su[illegible]

That
A[illegible]
Mi[illegible]
The[illegible]

I stood
Thi[illegible]
Will[illegible]
Wh[illegible]
Amaz[illegible]
Divinity

Mighty
That n[illegible]
As sure [illegible]
As e'er
Nor ever, w[illegible]
To live my [illegible]

At having risk'd thu[illegible]
For aught that earth through all its range
Of glories, offers in exchange!
'Twas all this, at that instant brought,
Like breaking sunshine, o'er my thought—
'Twas all this, kindled to a glow
Of sacred zeal, which, could it shine
Thus purely ever, man might grow,
Ev'n upon earth a thing divine,
I be, once more, the creature made
unstain'd the' Elysian shade!

[illegible]g the trace
[illegible]ght place.
[illegible]weak

1 Between Vattay a[illegible]
2 In the year 1782, w[illegible]
France laid siege to Ge[illegible]
of heroism and self-devo[illegible]
of their ancestors in 1602

Geneva.

Atalanta.—Mont Blanc.—

...ion of wonders, I find
...ancy leaves truth far behind;
...ike Hippomenes, turns her astray
... golden illusions he flings in her way.[1]

What a glory it seem'd the first ev'ning I gaz'd!
MONT BLANC, like a vision, then suddenly rais'd
On the wreck of the sunset—and all his array
Of high-towering Alps, touch'd still with a light
Far holier, purer than that of the Day,
As if nearness to Heaven had made them so bright!
Then the dying, at last, of these splendours away
From peak after peak, till they left but a ray,
One roseate ray, that, too precious to fly,
O'er the Mighty of M... still glowingly

...ÆA, when high
...lysium she sprung!
...hing out from the

...of their

...ky,

...gain,
...then—
...—
... the

...e arms
... soul!
...d me at

...lling on
...they gone?
...ut clouds,

... my fancy

...h can recall,
... and now are

Sir Richard Blackmore was a physi...

I can care for minores inter ... ...sed along the whole
... Andrew Fiddle Dandie ... ...lea of the stupendous
... subsequent observation
...ng.

What a picture of Life's young illusions! Oh, Night,
Drop thy curtain, at once, and hide *all* from my sight.

EXTRACT IV.

Milan.

The Picture Gallery. — Albano's Rape of Proserpine. — Reflections. — Universal Salvation. — Abraham sending away Agar, by Guercino. — Genius.

WENT to the *Brera* — saw a Dance of Loves
By smooth ALBANO [1]; him, whose pencil teems
With Cupids, numerous as in summer groves
The leaflets are, or motes in summer beams.

'Tis for the theft of Enna's flow'r [2] from earth,
These urchins celebrate their dance of mirth
Round the green tree, like fays upon a heath —
Those, that are nearest, link'd in order bright,
Cheek after cheek, like rose-buds in a wreath;
And those, more distant, showing from beneath
The others' wings their little eyes of light.
While see, among the clouds, their eldest brother,
But just flown up, tells with a smile of bliss
This prank of Pluto to his charmed mother,
Who turns to greet the tidings with a kiss!

Well might the Loves rejoice — and well did they,
Who wove these fables, picture, in their weaving,
That blessed truth, (which, in a darker day,
ORIGEN lost his saintship for believing,) — [3]
That Love, eternal Love, whose fadeless ray
Nor time, nor death, nor sin can overcast,
Ev'n to the depths of hell will find his way,
And soothe, and heal, and triumph there at last!

GUERCINO's Agar — where the bond-maid hears
From Abram's lips that he and she must part;
And looks at him with eyes all full of tears,
That seem the very last drops from her heart.
Exquisite picture! — let me not be told
Of minor faults, of colouring tame and cold —
If thus to conjure up a face so fair, [4]
So full of sorrow; with the story there
Of all that woman suffers, when the stay
Her trusting heart hath lean'd on falls away —
If thus to touch the bosom's tend'rest spring,
By calling into life such eyes, as bring
Back to our sad remembrance some of those
We've smil'd and wept with, in their joys and woes,
Thus filling them with tears, like tears we've known,
Till all the pictur'd grief becomes our own —
If *this* be deem'd the victory of Art —
If thus, by pen or pencil, to lay bare
The deep, fresh, living fountains of the heart
Before all eyes, be Genius — it is *there!*

[1] This picture, the Agar of Guercino, and the Apostles of Guido (the two latter of which are now the chief ornaments of the Brera), were formerly in the Palazzo Zampieri, at Bologna.

[2] ——— that fair field
Of Enna, where Proserpine, gathering flowers,
Herself a fairer flower, by gloomy Dis was gather'd.

[3] The extension of the Divine Love ultimately even to the regions of the damned.

[4] It is probable that this fine head is a portrait, as we find it repeated in a picture by Guercino, which is in the possession of Signor Camuccini, the brother of the celebrated painter at Rome.

EXTRACT V.

Padua.

Fancy and Reality. — Rain-drops and Lakes. — Plan of a Story. — Where to place the Scene of it. — In some unknown Region. — Psalmanazar's Imposture with respect to the Island of Formosa.

THE more I've view'd this world, the more I've found,
That, fill'd as 'tis with scenes and creatures rare,
Fancy commands, within her own bright round,
A world of scenes and creatures far more fair.
Nor is it that her power can call up there
A single charm, that's not from Nature won,
No more than rainbows, in their pride, can wear
A single hue unborrow'd from the sun —
But 'tis the mental medium it shines through,
That lends to Beauty all its charm and hue;
As the same light, that o'er the level lake
One dull monotony of lustre flings,
Will, entering in the rounded rain-drop, make
Colours as gay as those on Peris' wings!

And such, I deem, the diff'rence between real,
Existing Beauty and that form ideal,
Which she assumes, when seen by poets' eyes,
Like sunshine in the drop — with all those dyes,
Which Fancy's variegating prism supplies.

I have a story of two lovers, fill'd
With all the pure romance, the blissful sadness,
And the sad, doubtful bliss, that ever thrill'd
Two young and longing hearts in that sweet madness.
But where to choose the region of my vision
In this wide, vulgar world — what real spot

Can be found out sufficiently Elysian
For two such perfect lovers, I know not.
Oh for some fair FORMOSA, such as he,
The young Jew fabled of, in the' Indian Sea,
By nothing, but its name of Beauty, known,
And which Queen Fancy might make all her own,
Her fairy kingdom — take its people, lands,
And tenements into her own bright hands,
And make, at least, one earthly corner fit
For Love to live in, pure and exquisite!

EXTRACT VI.

Venice.

The Fall of Venice not to be lamented.—Former Glory.—Expedition against Constantinople.—Giustinianis.—Republic.—Characteristics of the old Government.—Golden Book.—Brazen Mouths.—Spies.—Dungeons.—Present Desolation.

MOURN not for VENICE — let her rest
In ruin, 'mong those States unblest,
Beneath whose gilded hoofs of pride,
Where'er they trampled, Freedom died.
No — let us keep our tears for them,
Where'er they pine, whose fall hath been
Not from a blood-stain'd diadem,
Like that which deck'd this ocean-queen,
But from high daring in the cause
Of human Rights — the only good
And blessed strife, in which man draws
His mighty sword on land or flood.

Mourn not for VENICE; though her fall
Be awful, as if Ocean's wave
Swept o'er her, she deserves it all,
And Justice triumphs o'er her grave.

Thus perish ev'ry King and State,
That run the guilty race she ran,
Strong but in ill, and only great
By outrage against God and man!

True, her high spirit is at rest,
And all those days of glory gone,
When the world's waters, east and west,
Beneath her white-wing'd commerce shone;
When, with her countless barks she went
To meet the Orient Empire's might,[1]
And her Giustinianis sent
Their hundred heroes to that fight.[2]

Vanish'd are all her pomps, 'tis true,
But mourn them not — for vanish'd, too,
(Thanks to that Pow'r, who, soon or late,
Hurls to the dust the guilty Great,)
Are all the outrage, falsehood, fraud,
The chains, the rapine, and the blood,
That fill'd each spot, at home, abroad,
Where the Republic's standard stood.
Desolate VENICE! when I track
Thy haughty course through cent'ries back;
Thy ruthless pow'r, obey'd but curst —
The stern machinery of thy State,
Which hatred would, like steam, have burst,
Had stronger fear not chill'd ev'n hate; —
Thy perfidy, still worse than aught
Thy own unblushing SARPI[3] taught; —
Thy friendship, which, o'er all beneath
Its shadow, rain'd down dews of death; —[4]
Thy Oligarchy's Book of Gold,
Clos'd against humble Virtue's name,[5]
But open'd wide for slaves who sold
Their native land to thee and shame; —[6]
Thy all-pervading host of spies,
Watching o'er ev'ry glance and breath,

[1] Under the Doge Michaeli, in 1171.

[2] "La famille entière des Justiniani, l'une des plus illustres de Venise, voulut marcher toute entière dans cette expédition; elle fournit cent combattans; c'était renouveler l'exemple d'une illustre famille de Rome; le même malheur les attendait." — *Histoire de Venise, par* DARU.

[3] The celebrated Fra Paolo. The collection of Maxims which this bold monk drew up at the request of the Venetian Government, for the guidance of the Secret Inquisition of State, are so atrocious as to seem rather an over-charged satire upon despotism, than a system of policy, seriously inculcated, and but too readily and constantly pursued.

The spirit, in which these maxims of Father Paul are conceived, may be judged from the instructions which he gives for the management of the Venetian colonies and provinces. Of the former he says: — "Il faut les traiter comme des animaux féroces, les rogner les dents, et les griffes, les humilier souvent, surtout leur ôter les occasions de s'aguerrir. Du pain et le bâton, voilà ce qu'il leur faut; gardons l'humanité pour une meilleure occasion."

For the treatment of the provinces he advises thus: — "Tendre à dépouiller les villes de leurs privilèges, faire que les habitans s'appauvrissent, et que leurs biens soient achetés par les Vénitiens. Ceux qui, dans les conseils municipaux, se montreront ou plus audacieux ou plus dévoués aux intérêts de la population, il faut les perdre ou les gagner à quelque prix que ce soit; *enfin, s'il se trouve dans les provinces quelques chefs de parti, il faut les exterminer sous un prétexte quelconque, mais en évitant de recourir à la justice ordinaire. Que le poison fasse l'office de bourreau, cela est moins odieux et beaucoup plus profitable.*"

[4] Conduct of Venice towards her allies and dependencies, particularly to unfortunate Padua. — Fate of Francesco Carrara, for which see *Daru*, vol. ii. p. 141.

[5] "A l'exception des trente citadins admis au grand conseil pendant la guerre di Chiozzi, il n'est pas arrivé une seule fois que les talens ou les services aient paru à cette noblesse orgueilleuse des titres suffisans pour s'asseoir avec elle." — DARU.

[6] Among those admitted to the honour of being inscribed in the *Libro d'oro* were some families of Brescia, Treviso, and other places, whose only claim to that distinction was the zeal with which they prostrated themselves and their country at the feet of the republic.

Till men look'd in each others' eyes,
To read their chance of life or death;—
Thy laws, that made a mart of blood,
And legaliz'd the' assassin's knife;—[1]
Thy sunless cells beneath the flood,
And racks, and Leads[2], that burnt out life;—

When I review all this, and see
The doom that now hath fall'n on thee;
Thy nobles, tow'ring once so proud,
Themselves beneath the yoke now bow'd,—
A yoke, by no one grace redeem'd,
Such as, of old, around thee beam'd,
But mean and base as e'er yet gall'd,
Earth's tyrants, when, themselves, enthrall'd,—
I feel the moral vengeance sweet,
And, smiling o'er the wreck, repeat,
"Thus perish ev'ry King and State,
"That tread the steps which VENICE trod,
"Strong but in ill, and only great,
"By outrage against man and God!"

EXTRACT VII.

Venice.

Lord Byron's Memoirs, written by himself.—Reflections, when about to read them.

LET me, a moment,—ere with fear and hope
Of gloomy, glorious things, these leaves I ope—
As one, in fairy tale, to whom the key
Of some enchanter's secret halls is giv'n,
Doubts, while he enters, slowly, tremblingly,
If he shall meet with shapes from hell or heav'n—
Let me, a moment, think what thousands live
O'er the wide earth this instant, who would give,
Gladly, whole sleepless nights to bend the brow
Over these precious leaves, as I do now.
How all who know—and where is he unknown?
To what far region have his songs not flown,
Like PSAPHON's birds[3], speaking their master's name,
In ev'ry language, syllabled by Fame?—
How all, who've felt the various spells combin'd
Within the circle of that master-mind,—
Like spells, deriv'd from many a star, and met
Together in some wond'rous amulet,—
Would burn to know when first the Light awoke
In his young soul,—and if the gleams that broke
From that Aurora of his genius, rais'd
Most pain or bliss in those on whom they blaz'd;
Would love to trace the' unfolding of that pow'r,
Which hath grown ampler, grander, ev'ry hour;
And feel, in watching o'er his first advance,
As did the' Egyptian traveller[4], when he stood
By the young Nile, and fathom'd with his lance
The fast small fountains of that mighty flood.

They, too, who, mid the scornful thoughts that dwell
In his rich fancy, tinging all its streams,—

[1] By the infamous statutes of the State Inquisition [a], not only was assassination recognised as a regular mode of punishment, but this secret power over life was delegated to their minions at a distance, with nearly as much facility as a licence is given under the game laws of England. The only restriction seems to have been the necessity of applying for a new certificate, after every individual exercise of the power.

[2] "Les prisons des plombs; c'est-à-dire ces fournaises ardentes qu'on avait distribuées en petites cellules sous les terrasses qui couvrent le palais."

[3] Psaphon, in order to attract the attention of the world, taught multitudes of birds to speak his name, and then let them fly away in various directions; whence the proverb, "*Psaphonis aves.*"

[4] Bruce.

[a] M. Daru has given an abstract of these Statutes, from a manuscript in the Bibliothèque du Roi, and it is hardly credible that such a system of treachery and cruelty should ever have been established by any government, or submitted to, for an instant, by any people. Among various precautions against the intrigues of their own Nobles, we find the following:—"Pour persuader aux étrangers qu'il était difficile et dangereux d'entretenir quelque intrigue secrète avec les nobles Vénitiens, on imagina de faire avertir mystérieusement le Nonce du Pape (afin que les autres ministres en fussent informés) que l'Inquisition avait autorisé les patriciens à poignarder quiconque essaierait de tenter leur fidélité. Mais craignant que les ambassadeurs ne prêtassent foi difficilement à une délibération, qui en effet n'existait pas, l'Inquisition voulait prouver qu'elle en était capable. Elle ordonna des recherches pour découvrir s'il n'y avait pas dans Venise quelque exilé au-dessus du commun, qui eût rompu son ban; ensuite un des patriciens qui étaient aux gages du tribunal, reçut la mission d'assassiner ce malheureux, et l'ordre de s'en vanter, en disant qu'il s'était porté à cet acte, parce que ce banni était l'agent d'un ministre étranger, et avait cherché à le corrompre."—"Remarquons," adds M. Daru, "que ceci n'est pas une simple anecdote; c'est une mission projetée, délibérée, écrite d'avance; une règle de conduite tracée par des hommes graves à leurs successeurs, et consignée dans des statuts."

The cases, in which assassination is ordered by these Statutes, are as follow:—

"Un ouvrier de l'arsenal, un chef de ce qu'on appelle parmi les marins le menstrance, passait-il au service d'une puissance étrangère: il fallait le faire assassiner, surtout si c'était un homme réputé brave et habile dans sa profession." (*Art. 3. des Statuts.*)

"Avait-il commis quelque action qu'on ne jugeait pas à propos de punir juridiquement, on devait le faire empoisonner." (*Art.* 14.)

"Un artisan passait-il à l'étranger en y exportant quelque procédé de l'industrie nationale: c'était encore un crime capital, que la loi inconnue ordonnait de punir par un assassinat." (*Art.* 26.)

The facility with which they got rid of their Duke of Bedfords, Lord Fitzwilliams, &c. was admirable: it was thus:—

"Le patricien qui se permettait le moindre propos contre le gouvernement, était admonété deux fois, et à la troisième *noyé comme incorrigible.*" (*Art.* 39.)

As if the Star of Bitterness, which fell
On earth of old [1], had touch'd them with its beams,—
Can track a spirit, which, though driven to hate,
From Nature's hands came kind, affectionate;
And which, ev'n now, struck as it is with blight,
Comes out, at times, in love's own native light;—
How gladly all, who've watch'd these struggling rays
Of a bright, ruin'd spirit through his lays,
Would here inquire, as from his own frank lips,
What desolating grief, what wrongs had driven
That noble nature into cold eclipse;
Like some fair orb that, once a sun in heaven,
And born, not only to surprise, but cheer
With warmth and lustre all within its sphere,
Is now so quench'd, that of its grandeur lasts
Nought, but the wide, cold shadow which it casts!

Eventful volume! whatsoe'er the change
Of scene and clime—the' adventures, bold and strange—
The griefs—the frailties, but too frankly told—
The loves, the feuds thy pages may unfold,
If Truth with half so prompt a hand unlocks
His virtues as his failings, we shall find
The record there of friendships, held like rocks,
And enmities, like sun-touch'd snow, resign'd;
Of fealty, cherish'd without change or chill,
In those who serv'd him, young, and serve him still;
Of gen'rous aid, giv'n with that noiseless art
Which wakes not pride, to many a wounded heart;
Of acts—but, no—*not* from himself must aught
Of the bright features of his life be sought.
While they, who court the world, like MILTON'S cloud,[2]
"Turn forth their silver lining" on the crowd,
This gifted Being wraps himself in night;
And, keeping all that softens, and adorns,
And gilds his social nature hid from sight,
Turns but its darkness on a world he scorns.

---

[1] "And the name of the star is called wormwood, and the third part of the waters became wormwood."—*Rev.* viii.

[2] "Did a sable cloud
Turn forth her silver lining on the night?"
Comus.

[3] In the Tribune at Florence.

[4] In the Palazzo Pitti.

EXTRACT VIII.

Venice.

Female Beauty at Venice.—No longer what it was in the Time of Titian.—His Mistress.—Various Forms in which he has painted her.—Venus.—Divine and profane Love.—La Fragilità d'Amore.—Paul Veronese.—His Women.—Marriage of Cana.—Character of Italian Beauty.—Raphael Fornarina.—Modesty.

THY brave, thy learn'd, have pass'd away:
Thy beautiful!—ah, where are they?
The forms, the faces, that once shone,
Models of grace, in Titian's eye,
Where are they now? while flowers live on
In ruin'd places, why, oh why
Must Beauty thus with Glory die?
That maid, whose lips would still have mov'd,
Could art have breath'd a spirit through them;
Whose varying charms her artist lov'd
More fondly ev'ry time he drew them,
(So oft beneath his touch they pass'd,
Each semblance fairer than the last);
Wearing each shape that Fancy's range
Offers to Love—yet still the one
Fair idol, seen through every change,
Like facets of some orient stone,—
In each the same bright image shown.
Sometimes a Venus, unarray'd
But in her beauty [3]—sometimes deck'd
In costly raiment, as a maid
That kings might for a throne select.[4]
Now high and proud, like one who thought
The world should at her feet be brought;
Now, with a look reproachful, sad,—[5]
Unwonted look from brow so glad;—
And telling of a pain too deep
For tongue to speak or eyes to weep.
Sometimes, through allegory's veil,
In double semblance seen to shine,
Telling a strange and mystic tale
Of Love Profane and Love Divine—[6]
Akin in features, but in heart
As far as earth and heav'n apart.
Or else (by quaint device to prove
The frailty of all worldly love)
Holding a globe of glass, as thin
As air-blown bubbles, in her hand,
With a young Love confin'd therein,
Whose wings seem waiting to expand—

[5] Alludes particularly to the portrait of her in the Sciarra collection at Rome, where the look of mournful reproach in those full, shadowy eyes, as if she had been unjustly accused of something wrong, is exquisite.

[6] The fine picture in the Palazzo Borghese, called (it is not easy to say why) "Sacred and Profane Love," in which the two figures, sitting on the edge of the fountain, are evidently portraits of the same person.

And telling, by her anxious eyes,
That, if that frail orb breaks, he flies![1]

Thou, too, with touch magnificent,
PAUL of VERONA!—where are they,
The oriental forms[2], that lent
Thy canvass such a bright array?
Noble and gorgeous dames, whose dress
Seems part of their own loveliness;
Like the sun's drapery, which, at eve,
The floating clouds around him weave
Of light they from himself receive!
Where is there now the living face
Like those that, in thy nuptial throng,[3]
By their superb, voluptuous grace,
Make us forget the time, the place,
The holy guests they smile among,—
Till, in that feast of heaven-sent wine,
We see no miracles but thine.

If e'er, except in Painting's dream,
There bloom'd such beauty here, 'tis gone,—
Gone, like the face that in the stream
Of Ocean for an instant shone,
When Venus at that mirror gave
A last look, ere she left the wave.
And though, among the crowded ways,
We oft are startled by the blaze
Of eyes that pass, with fitful light,
Like fire-flies on the wing at night,[4]
'Tis not that nobler beauty, giv'n
To show how angels look in heav'n.
Ev'n in its shape most pure and fair,
'Tis Beauty, with but half her zone,—
All that can warm the Sense is there,
But the Soul's deeper charm is flown:—
'Tis RAPHAEL's Fornarina,—warm,
Luxuriant, arch, but unrefin'd;
A flower, round which the noontide swarm
Of young Desires may buzz and wind,
But where true Love no treasure meets,
Worth hoarding in his hive of sweets.

Ah, no,—for this, and for the hue
Upon the rounded cheek, which tells
How fresh, within the heart, this dew
Of Love's unrifled sweetness dwells,
We must go back to our own Isles,
Where Modesty, which here but gives
A rare and transient grace to smiles,
In the heart's holy centre lives;
And thence, as from her throne diffuses
O'er thoughts and looks so bland a reign,
That not a thought or feeling loses
Its freshness in that gentle chain.

EXTRACT IX.

Venice.

The English to be met with every where.—Alps and Threadneedle Street.—The Simplon and the Stocks.—Rage for travelling.—Blue Stockings among the Wahabees.—Parasols and Pyramids.—Mrs. Hopkins and the Wall of China.

AND is there then no earthly place,
Where we can rest, in dream Elysian,
Without some curst, round English face,
Popping up near, to break the vision?
'Mid northern lakes, 'mid southern vines,
Unholy cits we're doom'd to meet;
Nor highest Alps nor Apennines
Are sacred from Threadneedle Street!

If up the Simplon's path we wind,
Fancying we leave this world behind,
Such pleasant sounds salute one's ear
As—"Baddish news from 'Change, my dear—
"The Funds—(phew, curse this ugly hill)—
"Are low'ring fast—(what, higher still?)—
"And—(zooks, we're mounting up to heaven!)—
"Will soon be down to sixty-seven."

Go where we may—rest where we will,
Eternal London haunts us still.
The trash of Almack's or Fleet Ditch—
And scarce a pin's head difference *which*—
Mixes, though ev'n to Greece we run,
With every rill from Helicon!
And, if this rage for travelling lasts,
If Cockneys, of all sects and castes,
Old maidens, aldermen, and squires,
Will leave their puddings and coal fires,
To gape at things in foreign lands,
No soul among them understands;
If Blues desert their coteries,
To show off 'mong the Wahabees;
If neither sex nor age controls,
Nor fear of Mamelukes forbids

[1] This fanciful allegory is the subject of a picture by Titian in the possession of the Marquis Cambian at Turin, whose collection, though small, contains some beautiful specimens of all the great masters.

[2] As Paul Veronese gave but little into the *beau idéal*, his women may be regarded as pretty close imitations of the living models which Venice afforded in his time.

[3] The Marriage of Cana.

[4] "Certain it is (as Arthur Young truly and feelingly says) one now and then meets with terrible eyes in Italy."

Young ladies, with pink parasols,
To glide among the Pyramids[1] —
Why, then, farewell all hope to find
A spot, that's free from London-kind!
Who knows, if to the West we roam,
But we may find some *Blue* "at home"
Among the *Blacks* of Carolina —
Or, flying to the Eastward, see
Some Mrs. HOPKINS, taking tea
And toast upon the Wall of China!

EXTRACT X.

Mantua.

Verses of Hippolyta to her Husband

THEY tell me thou'rt the favour'd guest[2]
Of every fair and brilliant throng;
No wit, like thine, to wake the jest,
No voice like thine, to breathe the song.
And none could guess, so gay thou art,
That thou and I are far apart.
Alas, alas, how diff'rent flows,
With thee and me the time away.
Not that I wish thee sad, heaven knows —
Still, if thou canst, be light and gay;
I only know that without thee
The sun himself is dark for me.

Do I put on the jewels rare
Thou'st always lov'd to see me wear?
Do I perfume the locks that thou
So oft hast braided o'er my brow,
Thus deck'd, through festive crowds to run,
And all the' assembled world to see, —
All but the one, the absent one,
Worth more than present worlds to me!
No, nothing cheers this widow'd heart —
My only joy, from thee apart,
From thee thyself, is sitting hours
And days, before thy pictur'd form —
That dream of thee, which Raphael's pow'rs
Have made with all but life-breath warm!
And as I smile to it, and say
The words I speak to thee in play,
I fancy from their silent frame,
Those eyes and lips give back the same;
And still I gaze, and still they keep
Smiling thus on me — till I weep!
Our little boy, too, knows it well,
For there I lead him every day,
And teach his lisping lips to tell
The name of one that's far away.
Forgive me, love, but thus alone
My time is cheer'd, while thou art gone.

EXTRACT XI.

Florence.

No — 'tis not the region where Love's to be found —
They have bosoms that sigh, they have glances that rove,
They have language a Sappho's own lip might resound,
When she warbled her best — but they've nothing like Love.

Nor is't that pure *sentiment* only they want,
Which Heav'n for the mild and the tranquil hath made —
Calm, wedded affection, that home-rooted plant,
Which sweetens seclusion, and smiles in the shade;

That feeling, which, after long years have gone by,
Remains, like a portrait we've sat for in youth,
Where, ev'n though the flush of the colours may fly,
The features still live, in their first smiling truth;

That union, where all that in Woman is kind,
With all that in Man most ennoblingly tow'rs,
Grow wreath'd into one — like the column, combin'd
Of the *strength* of the shaft and the capital's *flow'rs*.

Of this — bear ye witness, ye wives, ev'ry where,
By the ARNO, the Po, by all ITALY'S streams —
Of this heart-wedded love, so delicious to share,
Not a husband hath e'en one glimpse in his dreams.

[1] It was pink *spencers*, I believe, that the imagination of the French traveller conjured up.

[2] Utque ferunt lætus convivia læta
Et celebras lentis otia mista jocis;
Aut cithara æstivum attenuas cantuque calorem.
Hei mihi, quam dispar nunc mea vita tuæ!
Nec mihi displiceant quæ sunt tibi grata; sed ipsa est,
Te sine, lux oculis pene inimica meis.
Non auro aut gemmâ caput exornare nitenti
Me juvat, aut Arabo spargere odore comas:
Non celebres ludos fastis spectare diebus.
* * * *
Sola tuos vultus referens Raphaelis imago
Picta manu, curas allevat usque meas.
Huic ego delicias facio, arrideoque jocorque,
Alloquor et tanquam reddere verba queat.
Assensu nutuque mihi sæpe illa videtur
Dicere velle aliquid et tua verba loqui.
Agnoscit balboque patrem puer ore salutat.
Hoc solor longas decipioque dies.

But it *is* not this, only ;—born full of the light
Of a sun, from whose fount the luxuriant festoons
Of these beautiful valleys drink lustre so bright,
That, beside him, our suns of the north are but moons,—

We might fancy, at least, like their climate they burn'd ;
And that Love, though unus'd, in this region of spring,
To be thus to a tame Household Deity turn'd,
Would yet be all soul, when abroad on the wing.

And there *may* be, there *are*, those explosions of heart,
Which burst, when the senses have first caught the flame ;
Such fits of the blood as those climates impart,
Where Love is a sun-stroke, that maddens the frame.

But that Passion, which springs in the depth of the soul ;
Whose beginnings are virginly pure as the source
Of some small mountain rivulet, destin'd to roll
As a torrent, ere long, losing peace in its course—

A course, to which Modesty's struggle but lends
A more headlong descent, without chance of recall ;
But which Modesty ev'n to the last edge attends,
And, then, throws a halo of tears round its fall !

This exquisite Passion—ay, exquisite, even
Mid the ruin its madness too often hath made,
As it keeps, even then, a bright trace of the heaven,
That heaven of Virtue from which it has stray'd—

This entireness of love, which can only be found,
Where Woman, like something that's holy, watch'd over,
And fenc'd, from her childhood, with purity round,
Comes, body and soul, fresh as Spring, to a lover !

Where not an eye answers, where not a hand presses,
Till spirit with spirit in sympathy move ;
And the Senses, asleep in their sacred recesses,
Can only be reach'd through the temple of Love ! —

This perfection of Passion—how *can* it be found,
Where the mystery nature hath hung round the tie

By which souls are together attracted and bound,
Is laid open, for ever, to heart, ear, and eye ;—

Where nought of that innocent doubt can exist,
That ignorance, even than knowledge more bright,
Which circles the young, like the morn's sunny mist,
And curtains them round in their own native light ;—

Where Experience leaves nothing for Love to reveal,
Or for Fancy, in visions, to gleam o'er the thought ;
But the truths which, alone, we would die to conceal
From the maiden's young heart, are the *only* ones taught.

No, no, 'tis not here, howsoever we sigh,
Whether purely to Hymen's *one* planet we pray,
Or adore, like Sabæans, each light of Love's sky,
Here *is* not the region, to fix or to stray.

For faithless in wedlock, in gallantry gross,
Without honour to guard, or reserve to restrain,
What have they, a husband can mourn as a loss ?
What have they, a lover can prize as a gain ?

EXTRACT XII.

Florence.

Music in Italy. — Disappointed by it. — Recollections of other Times and Friends. — Dalton. — Sir John Stevenson. — His Daughter. — Musical Evenings together.

* * * * *

If it *be* true that Music reigns,
Supreme, in Italy's soft shades,
'Tis like that Harmony, so famous,
Among the spheres, which, He of Samos
Declar'd, had such transcendent merit,
That not a soul on earth could hear it ;
For, far as I have come—from Lakes,
Whose sleep the Tramontana breaks,
Through Milan, and that land, which gave
The Hero of the rainbow vest—[1]
By Mincio's banks, and by that wave,[2]
Which made Verona's bard so blest—
Places, that (like the Attic shore,
Which rung back music, when the sea
Struck on its marge) should be, all o'er,
Thrilling alive with melody—
I've heard no music—not a note
Of such sweet native airs as float,

[1] Bergamo — the birth-place, it is said, of Harlequin.

[2] The Lago di Garda.

In my own land, among the throng,
And speak our nation's soul for song.

Nay, ev'n in higher walks, where Art
Performs, as 'twere, the gardener's part,
And richer, if not sweeter, makes
The flow'rs she from the wild-hedge takes—
Ev'n there, no voice hath charm'd my ear,
No taste hath won my perfect praise,
Like thine, dear friend [1]—long, truly dear—
Thine, and thy lov'd OLIVIA's lays.
She, always beautiful, and growing
Still more so ev'ry note she sings—
Like an inspir'd young Sibyl [2], glowing
With her own bright imaginings!
And thou, most worthy to be tied
In music to her, as in love,
Breathing that language by her side,
All other language far above,
Eloquent Song—whose tones and words
In ev'ry heart find answering chords!

How happy once the hours we past,
Singing or list'ning all day long,
Till Time itself seem'd chang'd, at last,
To music, and we liv'd in song!
Turning the leaves of HAYDN o'er,
As quick, beneath her master hand,
They open'd all their brilliant store,
Like chambers, touch'd by fairy wand;
Or o'er the page of MOZART bending,
Now by his airy warblings cheer'd,
Now in his mournful *Requiem* blending
Voices, through which the heart was heard.

And still, to lead our ev'ning choir,
Was He invok'd, thy lov'd-one's Sire—[3]
He, who, if aught of grace there be
In the wild notes I write or sing,
First smooth'd their links of harmony,
And lent them charms they did not bring;—
He, of the gentlest, simplest heart,
With whom, employ'd in his sweet art,
(That art, which gives this world of ours
A notion how they speak in heav'n,)
I've pass'd more bright and charmed hours
Than all earth's wisdom could have giv'n.
Oh happy days, oh early friends,
How Life, since then, hath lost its flow'rs!

But yet—though Time *some* foliage rends,
The stem, the Friendship, still is ours;
And long may it endure, as green,
And fresh as it hath always been!

How I have wander'd from my theme!
But where is he, that could return
To such cold subjects from a dream,
Through which these best of feelings burn?—
Not all the works of Science, Art,
Or Genius in this world are worth
One genuine sigh, that from the heart
Friendship or Love draws freshly forth.

EXTRACT XIII.

Rome.

Reflections on reading Du Cerceau's Account of the Conspiracy of Rienzi, in 1347.[4]— *The Meeting of the Conspirators on the Night of the* 19*th of May.* — *Their Procession in the Morning to the Capitol.* — *Rienzi's Speech.*

'TWAS a proud moment—ev'n to hear the words
Of Truth and Freedom 'mid these temples breath'd,
And see, once more, the Forum shine with swords,
In the Republic's sacred name unsheath'd—
That glimpse, that vision of a brighter day,
For his dear ROME, must to a Roman be,
Short as it was, worth ages pass'd away
In the dull lapse of hopeless slavery.

'Twas on a night of May, beneath that moon,
Which had, through many an age, seen Time untune
The strings of this Great Empire, till it fell
From his rude hands, a broken, silent shell—
The sound of the church clock [5], near ADRIAN's Tomb,
Summon'd the warriors, who had risen for ROME,
To meet unarm'd,—with none to watch them there,
But God's own eye,—and pass the night in pray'r.
Holy beginning of a holy cause,
When heroes, girt for Freedom's combat, pause
Before high Heav'n, and, humble in their might,
Call down its blessing on that coming fight.

[1] Edward Tuite Dalton, the first husband of Sir John Stevenson's daughter, the late Marchioness of Headfort.

[2] Such as those of Domenichino in the Palazzo Borghese at the Capitol, &c.

[3] Sir John Stevenson.

[4] The "Conjuration de Nicolas Gabrini, dit de Rienzi," by the Jesuit Du Cerceau, is chiefly taken from the much more authentic work of Fortifiocca on the same subject. Rienzi was the son of a laundress.

[5] It is not easy to discover what church is meant by Du Cerceau here:—"Il fit crier dans les rues de Rome, à son de trompe, que chacun eût à se trouver, sans armes, la nuit du lendemain, dix-neuvième, dans l'église du château de Saint-Ange, au son de la cloche, afin de pourvoir au Bon E'tat."

At dawn, in arms, went forth the patriot band;
And, as the breeze, fresh from the TIBER, fann'd
Their gilded gonfalons, all eyes could see
The palm-tree there, the sword, the keys of Heav'n—[1]
Types of the justice, peace, and liberty,
That were to bless them, when their chains were riv'n.
On to the Capitol the pageant mov'd,
While many a Shade of other times, that still
Around that grave of grandeur sighing rov'd,
Hung o'er their footsteps up the Sacred Hill,
And heard its mournful echoes, as the last
High-minded heirs of the Republic pass'd.
'Twas then that thou, their Tribune[2], (name, which brought
Dreams of lost glory to each patriot's thought,)
Didst, with a spirit Rome in vain shall seek
To wake up in her sons again, thus speak:—
"ROMANS, look round you—on this sacred place
"There once stood shrines, and gods, and god-like men.
"What see you now? what solitary trace
"Is left of all, that made ROME's glory then?
"The shrines are sunk, the Sacred Mount bereft
"Ev'n of its name—and nothing now remains
"But the deep mem'ry of that glory, left
"To whet our pangs and aggravate our chains!
"But *shall* this be?—our sun and sky the same,—
"Treading the very soil our fathers trode,—
"What with'ring curse hath fall'n on soul and frame,
"What visitation hath there come from God,
"To blast our strength, and rot us into slaves,
"*Here*, on our great forefathers' glorious graves?
"It cannot be—rise up, ye Mighty Dead,—
"If we, the living, are too weak to crush
"These tyrant priests, that o'er your empire tread,
"Till all but Romans at Rome's tameness blush!

"Happy, PALMYRA, in thy desert domes,
"Where only date-trees sigh and serpents hiss;
"And thou, whose pillars are but silent homes
"For the stork's brood, superb PERSEPOLIS!
"Thrice happy both, that your extinguish'd race
"Have left no embers—no half-living trace—
"No slaves, to crawl around the once proud spot,
"Till past renown in present shame's forgot.
"While ROME, the Queen of all, whose very wrecks,
"If lone and lifeless through a desert hurl'd,
"Would wear more true magnificence than decks
"The' assembled thrones of all the' existing world—
"ROME, ROME alone, is haunted, stain'd and curst,
"Through ev'ry spot her princely TIBER laves,
"By living human things—the deadliest, worst,
"This earth engenders—tyrants and their slaves!
"And we—oh shame!—we, who have ponder'd o'er
"The patriot's lesson and the poet's lay;[3]
"Have mounted up the streams of ancient lore,
"Tracking our country's glories all the way—
"Ev'n *we* have tamely, basely kiss'd the ground
"Before that Papal Power,—that Ghost of Her,
"The World's Imperial mistress—sitting, crown'd
"And ghastly, on her mould'ring sepulchre![4]

"But this is past:—too long have lordly priests
"And priestly lords led us, with all our pride
"With'ring about us—like devoted beasts,
"Dragg'd to the shrine, with faded garlands tied.
"'Tis o'er—the dawn of our deliv'rance breaks!
"Up from his sleep of centuries awakes
"The Genius of the Old Republic, free
"As first he stood, in chainless majesty,
"And sends his voice through ages yet to come,
"Proclaiming ROME, ROME, ROME, Eternal ROME!"

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[1] "Les gentilshommes conjurés portaient devant lui trois étendarts. Nicolas Guallato, surnommé *le bon diseur*, portait le premier, qui était de couleur rouge, et plus grand que les autres. On y voyait des caractères d'or avec une femme assise sur deux lions, tenant d'une main le globe du monde, et de l'autre *une Palme* pour représenter la ville de Rome. C'était le Gonfalon de *la Liberté*. Le second, à fonds blanc, avec un St. Paul tenant de la droite *une Epée* nue et de la gauche la couronne de *Justice*, était porté par Etienne Magnacuccia, notaire apostolique. Dans le troisième, St. Pierre avait en main *les clefs* de la Concorde et de la Paix. Tout cela insinuait le dessein de Rienzi, qui était de rétablir la liberté, la justice, et la paix."—DU CERCEAU, liv. ii.

[2] Rienzi.

[3] The fine Canzone of Petrarch, beginning "Spirto gentil," is supposed, by Voltaire and others, to have been addressed to Rienzi; but there is much more evidence of its having been written, as Ginguené asserts, to the young Stephen Colonna, on his being created a Senator of Rome. That Petrarch, however, was filled with high and patriotic hopes by the first measures of this extraordinary man, appears from one of his letters, quoted by Du Cerceau, where he says,—"Pour tout dire, en un mot, j'atteste, non comme lecteur, mais comme témoin oculaire, qu'il nous a ramené la justice, la paix, la bonne foi, la sécurité, et tous les autres vestiges de l'âge d'or."

[4] This image is borrowed from Hobbes, whose words are, as near as I can recollect:—"For what is the Papacy, but the Ghost of the old Roman Empire, sitting crowned on the grave thereof?"

EXTRACT XIV.

Rome.

Fragment of a Dream. — The great Painters supposed to be Magicians. — The Beginnings of the Art. — Gildings on the Glories and Draperies. — Improvements under Giotto, &c. — The first Dawn of the true Style in Masaccio. — Studied by all the great Artists who followed him. — Leonardo da Vinci, with whom commenced the Golden Age of Painting. — His Knowledge of Mathematics and of Music. — His female Heads all like each other. — Triangular Faces. — Portraits of Mona Lisa, &c. — Picture of Vanity and Modesty. — His chef-d'œuvre, the Last Supper. — Faded and almost effaced.

FILL'D with the wonders I had seen,
In Rome's stupendous shrines and halls,
I felt the veil of sleep, serene,
Come o'er the mem'ry of each scene,
As twilight o'er the landscape falls.
Nor was it slumber, sound and deep,
But such as suits a poet's rest—
That sort of thin, transparent sleep,
Through which his day-dreams shine the best.
Methought upon a plain I stood,
Where certain wondrous men, 'twas said,
With strange, mirac'lous pow'r endu'd,
Were coming, each in turn, to shed
His arts' illusions o'er the sight,
And call up miracles of light.
The sky above this lonely place,
Was of that cold, uncertain hue,
The canvass wears, ere, warm'd apace,
Its bright creation dawns to view.

But soon a glimmer from the east
Proclaim'd the first enchantments nigh;[1]
And as the feeble light increas'd,
Strange figures mov'd across the sky,
With golden glories deck'd, and streaks
Of gold among their garments' dyes;[2]
And life's resemblance ting'd their cheeks,
But nought of life was in their eyes;—
Like the fresh-painted Dead one meets,
Borne slow along Rome's mournful streets.

But soon these figures pass'd away;
And forms succeeded to their place,
With less of gold, in their array,
But shining with more natural grace,
And all could see the charming wands
Had pass'd into more gifted hands.[3]

Among these visions there was one,[4]
Surpassing fair, on which the sun,
That instant ris'n, a beam let fall,
Which through the dusky twilight trembled,
And reach'd at length, the spot where all
Those great magicians stood assembled.
And as they turn'd their heads, to view
The shining lustre, I could trace
The bright varieties it threw
On each uplifted studying face;[5]
While many a voice with loud acclaim,
Call'd forth, "Masaccio" as the name
Of him, the' Enchanter, who had rais'd
This miracle, on which all gaz'd.

'Twas daylight now—the sun had ris'n,
From out the dungeon of old Night,—
Like the Apostle, from his prison
Led by the Angel's hand of light;
And—as the fetters, when that ray
Of glory reach'd them, dropp'd away,[6]
So fled the clouds at touch of day!
Just then, a bearded sage[7] came forth,
Who oft in thoughtful dream would stand,
To trace upon the dusky earth
Strange learned figures with his wand;[8]
And oft he took the silver lute[9]
His little page behind him bore,
And wak'd such music as, when mute,
Left in the soul a thirst for more!

Meanwhile, his potent spells went on,
And forms and faces, that from out
A depth of shadow mildly shone,
Were in the soft air seen about.
Though thick as midnight stars they beam'd,
Yet all like living sisters seem'd,

[1] The paintings of those artists who were introduced into Venice and Florence from Greece.

[2] Margaritone of Orezzo, who was a pupil and imitator of the Greeks, is said to have invented this art of gilding the ornaments of pictures, a practice which, though it gave way to a purer taste at the beginning of the 16th century, was still occasionally used by many of the great masters: as by Raphael in the ornaments of the Fornarina, and by Rubens not unfrequently in glories and flames.

[3] Cimabue, Giotto, &c.

[4] The works of Masaccio. — For the character of this powerful and original genius, see Sir Joshua Reynold's twelfth discourse. His celebrated frescoes are in the church of St. Pietro del Carmine, at Florence.

[5] All the great artists studied, and many of them borrowed from Masaccio. Several figures in the Cartoons of Raphael are taken, with but little alteration, from his frescoes.

[6] "And a light shined in the prison . . . and his chains fell off from his hands." — *Acts.*

[7] Leonardo da Vinci.

[8] His treatise on Mechanics, Optics, &c. preserved in the Ambrosian library at Milan.

[9] On dit que Léonard parut pour la première fois à la cour de Milan, dans un espèce de concours ouvert entre les meilleurs joueurs de lyre d'Italie. Il se présenta avec une lyre de sa façon, construit en argent. — *Histoire de la Peinture en Italie.*

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY BOMBAY BRANCH

So close, in every point, resembling
Each other's beauties — from the eyes
Lucid as if through crystal trembling,
Yet soft as if suffus'd with sighs,
To the long, fawn-like mouth, and chin,
Lovely tapering, less and less,
Till, by this very charm's excess,
Like virtue on the verge of sin,
It touch'd the bounds of ugliness.
Here look'd as when they liv'd the shades
Of some of Arno's dark-ey'd maids —
Such maids as should alone live on,
In dreams thus, when their charms are gone:
Some Mona Lisa, on whose eyes
A painter for whole years might gaze,[1]
Nor find in all his pallet's dyes,
One that could even approach their blaze!

Here float two spirit shapes[2], the one,
With her white fingers to the sun
Outspread, as if to ask his ray
Whether it e'er had chanc'd to play
On lillies half so fair as they!
This self-pleas'd nymph, was Vanity —
And by her side another smil'd,
In form as beautiful as she,
But with that air, subdu'd and mild,
That still reserve of purity,
Which is to beauty like the haze
Of ev'ning to some sunny view,
Soft'ning such charms as it displays,
And veiling others in that hue,
Which fancy only can see through!
This phantom nymph, who could she be,
But the bright Spirit, Modesty?

Long did the learn'd enchanter stay
To weave his spells, and still there pass'd,
As in the lantern's shifting play,
Group after group in close array,
Each fairer, grander, than the last.
But the great triumph of his pow'r
Was yet to come: — gradual and slow,
(As all that is ordain'd to tow'r
Among the works of man must grow,)
The sacred vision stole to view,
In that half light, half shadow shown,
Which gives to ev'n the gayest hue
A sober'd, melancholy tone.
It was a vision of that last,[3]
Sorrowful night which Jesus pass'd
With his disciples, when he said
Mournfully to them — "I shall be
"Betray'd by one, who here hath fed
"This night at the same board with me."
And though the Saviour, in the dream
Spoke not these words, we saw them beam
Legibly in his eyes (so well
The great magician work'd his spell),
And read in every thoughtful line
Imprinted on that brow divine,
The meek, the tender nature, griev'd,
Not anger'd, to be thus deceiv'd —
Celestial love requited ill
For all its care, yet loving still —
Deep, deep regret that there should fall
From man's deceit so foul a blight
Upon that parting hour — and all
His Spirit must have felt that night,
Who, soon to die for human-kind,
Thought only, 'mid his mortal pain,
How many a soul was left behind
For whom he died that death in vain!

Such was the heavenly scene — alas,
That scene so bright so soon should pass!
But pictur'd on the humid air,
Its tints, ere long, grew languid there;[4]
And storms came on, that, cold and rough,
Scatter'd its gentlest glories all —
As when the baffling winds blow off
The hues that hang o'er Terni's fall, —
Till, one by one, the vision's beams
Faded away, and soon it fled,
To join those other vanish'd dreams
That now flit palely 'mong the dead, —
The shadows of those shades, that go,
Around Oblivion's lake, below!

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[1] He is said to have been four years employed upon the portrait of this fair Florentine, without being able, after all, to come up to his idea of her beauty.

[2] Vanity and Modesty in the collection of Cardinal Fesch, at Rome. The composition of the four hands here is rather awkward, but the picture, altogether, is very delightful. There is a repetition of the subject in the possession of Lucien Bonaparte.

[3] The Last Supper of Leonardo da Vinci, which is in the Refectory of the Convent delle Grazie at Milan. See L'Histoire de la Peinture in Italie, liv. iii. chap. 45. The writer of that interesting work (to whom I take this opportunity of offering my acknowledgments, for the copy he sent me a year since from Rome,) will see I have profited by some of his observations on this celebrated picture.

[4] Leonardo appears to have used a mixture of oil and varnish for this picture, which alone, without the various other causes of its ruin, would have prevented any long duration of its beauties. It is now almost entirely effaced.

EXTRACT XV.

Rome.

Mary Magdalen. — Her Story. — Numerous Pictures of her. — Correggio. — Guido. — Raphael, &c. — Canova's two exquisite Statues. — The Somariva Magdalen. — Chantrey's Admiration of Canova's Works.

No wonder, MARY, that thy story
Touches all hearts — for there we see
The soul's corruption, and its glory,
Its death and life combin'd in thee.

From the first moment, when we find
Thy spirit haunted by a swarm
Of dark desires, — like demons shrin'd
Unholily in that fair form, —
Till when, by touch of Heav'n set free,
Thou cam'st, with those bright locks of gold
(So oft the gaze of BETHANY),
And, cov'ring in their precious fold
Thy Saviour's feet, didst shed such tears
As paid, each drop, the sins of years!
Thence on, through all thy course of love
To Him, thy Heavenly Master, — Him,
Whose bitter death-cup from above
Had yet this cordial round the brim,
That woman's faith and love stood fast
And fearless by Him to the last: —
Till, oh, blest boon for truth like thine!
Thou wert, of all, the chosen one,
Before whose eyes that Face Divine,
When risen from the dead, first shone;
That thou might'st see how, like a cloud,
Had pass'd away its mortal shroud,
And make that bright revealment known
To hearts, less trusting than thy own.
All is affecting, cheering, grand;
The kindliest record ever giv'n,
Ev'n under God's own kindly hand,
Of what Repentance wins from Heav'n!

No wonder, MARY, that thy face,
In all its touching light of tears,
Should meet us in each holy place,
Where Man before his God appears,
Hopeless — were he not taught to see
All hope in Him, who pardon'd thee!
No wonder that the painter's skill
Should oft have triumph'd in the pow'r
Of keeping thee all lovely still
Ev'n in thy sorrow's bitt'rest hour;
That soft CORREGGIO should diffuse
His melting shadows round thy form;
That GUIDO's pale, unearthly hues
Should, in portraying thee, grow warm;
That all — from the ideal, grand,
Inimitable Roman hand,
Down to the small, enamelling touch
Of smooth CARLINO — should delight
In pict'ring her, who "lov'd so much,"
And was, in spite of sin, so bright!

But, MARY, 'mong these bold essays
Of Genius and of Art to raise
A semblance of those weeping eyes —
A vision, worthy of the sphere
Thy faith has earn'd thee in the skies,
And in the hearts of all men here, —
None e'er hath match'd, in grief or grace,
CANOVA's day-dream of thy face,
In those bright sculptur'd forms, more bright
With true expression's breathing light,
Than ever yet, beneath the stroke
Of chisel, into life awoke.
The one[1], portraying what thou wert
In thy first grief, — while yet the flow'r
Of those young beauties was unhurt
By sorrow's slow, consuming pow'r;
And mingling earth's seductive grace
With heav'n's subliming thoughts so well,
We doubt, while gazing, in *which* place
Such beauty was most form'd to dwell!
The other, as thou look'dst, when years
Of fasting, penitence, and tears
Had worn thy frame; — and ne'er did Art
With half such speaking pow'r express
The ruin which a breaking heart
Spreads, by degrees, o'er loveliness.
Those wasting arms, that keep the trace,
Ev'n still, of all their youthful grace,
That loosen'd hair, of which thy brow
Was once so proud, — neglected now! —
Those features, ev'n in fading worth
The freshest bloom to others giv'n,
And those sunk eyes, now lost to earth,
But, to the last, still full of heav'n!

Wonderful artist! praise, like mine —
Though springing from a soul, that feels
Deep worship of those works divine,
Where Genius all his light reveals —
How weak 'tis to the words that came
From him, thy peer in art and fame,[2]

[1] This statue is one of the last works of Canova, and was not yet in marble when I left Rome. The other, which seems to prove, in contradiction to very high authority, that expression, of the intensest kind, is fully within the sphere of sculpture, was executed many years ago, and is in the possession of the Count Somariva, at Paris.

[2] Chantrey.

Whom I have known, by day, by night,
Hang o'er thy marble with delight;
And, while his ling'ring hand would steal
O'er every grace the taper's rays,[1]
Give thee, with all the gen'rous zeal
Such master-spirits only feel,
That best of fame, a rival's praise!

EXTRACT XVI.

Les Charmettes.

A Visit to the House where Rousseau lived with Madame de Warrens. — Their Ménage. — Its Grossness. — Claude Anet. — Reverence with which the Spot is now visited. — Absurdity of this blind Devotion to Fame. — Feelings excited by the Beauty and Seclusion of the Scene. — Disturbed by its Associations with Rousseau's History. — Impostures of Men of Genius. — Their power of mimicking all the best Feelings, Love, Independence, &c.

STRANGE power of Genius, that can throw
Round all that's vicious, weak, and low,
Such magic lights, such rainbow dyes
As dazzle ev'n the steadiest eyes
* * * * * *
* * * * * *
'Tis worse than weak — 'tis wrong, 'tis shame,
This mean prostration before Fame;
This casting down, beneath the car
Of Idols, whatsoe'er they are,
Life's purest, holiest decencies,
To be career'd o'er, as they please.
No — give triumphant Genius all
For which his loftiest wish can call:
If he be worshipp'd, let it be
For attributes, his noblest, first;
Not with that base idolatry,
Which sanctifies his last and worst.

I may be cold; — may want that glow
Of high romance, which bards should know;
That holy homage, which is felt
In treading where the great have dwelt;
This rev'rence, whatsoe'er it be,
I fear, I feel, I have it *not:* —
For here, at this still hour, to me
The charms of this delightful spot;
Its calm seclusion from the throng,
From all the heart would fain forget;
This narrow valley, and the song
Of its small murm'ring rivulet;
The flitting, to and fro, of birds,
Tranquil and tame as they were once
In Eden, ere the startling words
Of Man disturb'd their orisons;
Those little, shadowy paths, that wind
Up the hill-side, with fruit-trees lin'd,
And lighted only by the breaks
The gay wind in the foliage makes,
Or vistas, here and there, that ope
Through weeping willows, like the snatches
Of far-off scenes of light, which Hope
Ev'n through the shade of sadness catches! —
All this, which — could I once but lose
The memory of those vulgar ties,
Whose grossness all the heavenliest hues
Of Genius can no more disguise,
Than the sun's beams can do away
The filth of fens o'er which they play —
This scene, which would have fill'd my heart
With thoughts of all that happiest is; —
Of Love, where self hath only part,
As echoing back another's bliss;
Of solitude, secure and sweet,
Beneath whose shade the Virtues meet;
Which, while it shelters, never chills
Our sympathies with human woe,
But keeps them, like sequester'd rills,
Purer and fresher in their flow;
Of happy days, that share their beams
'Twixt quiet mirth and wise employ;
Of tranquil nights, that give, in dreams,
The moonlight of the morning's joy! —
All this my heart could dwell on here,
But for those gross mementos near;
Those sullying truths, that cross the track
Of each sweet thought, and drive them back
Full into all the mire, and strife,
And vanities of that man's life,
Who, more than all that e'er have glow'd
With Fancy's flame (and it was *his*,
In fullest warmth and radiance) show'd
What an impostor Genius is;
How, with that strong, mimetic art,
Which forms its life and soul, it takes
All shapes of thought, all hues of heart,
Nor feels, itself, one throb it wakes;
How like a gem its light may smile
O'er the dark path, by mortals trod,
Itself as mean a worm, the while,
As crawls at midnight o'er the sod;
What gentle words and thoughts may fall
From its false lip, what zeal to bless,
While home, friends, kindred, country, all,
Lie waste beneath its selfishness;
How, with the pencil hardly dry
From colouring up such scenes of love
And beauty, as make young hearts sigh,
And dream, and think through heav'n they rove,

[1] Canova always shows his fine statue, the Venere Vincitrice, by the light of a small candle.

They, who can thus describe and move,
The very workers of these charms,
Nor seek, nor know a joy, above
Some Maman's or Theresa's arms!

How all, in short, that makes the boast
Of their false tongues, they want the most;
And, while with freedom on their lips,
Sounding their timbrels, to set free
This bright world, labouring in the' eclipse
Of priestcraft, and of slavery,—

They may, themselves, be slaves as low
As ever Lord or Patron made
To blossom in his smile, or grow,
Like stunted brushwood, in his shade.
Out on the craft!—I'd rather be
One of those hinds, that round me tread,
With just enough of sense to see
The noonday sun that's o'er his head,
Than thus, with high-built genius curst,
That hath no heart for its foundation,
Be all, at once, that's brightest, worst,
Sublimest, meanest in creation!

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

OCCASIONAL EPILOGUE.

SPOKEN BY MR. CORRY, IN THE CHARACTER OF VAPID, AFTER THE PLAY OF THE DRAMATIST, AT THE KILKENNY THEATRE.

(*Entering as if to announce the Play.*)

Ladies and Gentlemen, on Monday night,
For the ninth time—oh accents of delight
To the poor author's ear, when *three times three*
With a full bumper crowns his Comedy!
When, long by money, and the muse, forsak'n,
He finds at length his jokes and boxes tak'n,
And sees his play-bill circulate—alas,
The only bill on which his name will pass!
Thus, Vapid, thus shall Thespian scrolls of fame
Through box and gall'ry waft your well-known name,
While critic eyes the happy cast shall con,
And learned ladies spell your *Dram. Person.*

'Tis said our worthy Manager[1] intends
To help my night, and *he*, you know, has friends.
Friends, did I say? for fixing friends, or *parts*,
Engaging actors, or engaging hearts,
There's nothing like him! wits, at his request,
Are turn'd to fools, and dull dogs learn to jest;
Soldiers, for him, good "trembling cowards" make,
And beaus, turn'd clowns, look ugly for his sake;
For him ev'n lawyers talk without a fee,
For him (oh friendship!) *I* act tragedy!
In short, like Orpheus, his persuasive tricks
Make *boars* amusing, and put life in *sticks*.

With *such* a manager we can't but please,
Though London sent us all her loud O. P.'s,[2]
Let them come on, like snakes, all hiss and rattle,
Arm'd with a thousand fans, we'd give them battle;
You, on our side, R. P.[3] upon our banners,
Soon should we teach the saucy O. P.'s manners:
And show that, here—howe'er John Bull may doubt—
In all *our* plays, the Riot-Act's cut out;
And, while we skim the cream of many a jest,
Your well-tim'd thunder never sours its zest.

Oh gently thus, when three short weeks are past,
At Shakspeare's altar[4], shall we breathe our last;
And, ere this long-lov'd dome to ruin nods,
Die all, die nobly, die like demigods!

[1] The late Mr. Richard Power.

[2] The brief appellation by which those persons were distinguished who, at the opening of the new theatre of Covent Garden, clamoured for the continuance of the old prices of admission.

[3] The initials of our manager's name.

[4] This alludes to a scenic representation then preparing for the last night of the performances.

EXTRACT

FROM A PROLOGUE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN BY THE AUTHOR, AT THE OPENING OF THE KILKENNY THEATRE, OCTOBER, 1809.

* * * * * * * *

YET, even here, though Fiction rules the hour,
There shine some genuine smiles, beyond her power;
And there are tears, too—tears that Memory sheds
Ev'n o'er the feast that mimic fancy spreads,
When her heart misses *one* lamented guest,[1]
Whose eye so long threw light o'er all the rest!
There, there, indeed, the Muse forgets her task,
And drooping weeps behind Thalia's mask.

Forgive this gloom—forgive this joyless strain,
Too sad to welcome pleasure's smiling train.
But, meeting thus, our hearts will part the lighter,
As mist at dawn but makes the setting brighter;
Gay Epilogue will shine where Prologue fails—
As glow-worms keep their splendour for their tails.

I know not why—but time, methinks, hath pass'd
More fleet than usual since we parted last.
It seems but like a dream of yester-night,
Whose charm still hangs, with fond, delaying light;
And, ere the memory lose one glowing hue
Of former joy, we come to kindle new.
Thus ever may the flying moments haste
With trackless foot along life's vulgar waste,
But deeply print and lingeringly move,
When thus they reach the sunny spots we love.
Oh yes, whatever be our gay career,
Let this be still the solstice of the year,
Where Pleasure's sun shall at its height remain,
And slowly sink to level life again.

THE SYLPH'S BALL.

A SYLPH, as bright as ever sported
Her figure through the fields of air,
By an old swarthy Gnome was courted,
And, strange to say, he won the fair.

The annals of the oldest witch
A pair so sorted could not show,
But how refuse?—the Gnome was rich,
The Rothschild of the world below;

And Sylphs, like other pretty creatures,
Are told, betimes, they must consider
Love as an auctioneer of features,
Who knocks them down to the best bidder.

Home she was taken to his Mine—
A Palace, pav'd with diamonds all—
And, proud as Lady Gnome to shine,
Sent out her tickets for a Ball.

The *lower* world, of course, was there,
And all the best; but of the *upper*
The sprinkling was but shy and rare,
A few old Sylphids, who lov'd supper.

As none yet knew the wondrous Lamp
Of DAVY, that renown'd Aladdin,
And the Gnome's Halls exhal'd a damp,
Which accidents from fire were bad in;

The chambers were supplied with light
By many strange but safe devices;
Large fire-flies, such as shine at night
Among the Orient's flowers and spices;—

Musical flint-mills—swiftly play'd
By elfin hands—that, flashing round,
Like certain fire-eyed minstrel maids,
Gave out, at once, both light and sound.

Bologna stones, that drink the sun;
And water from that Indian sea,
Whose waves at night like wild-fire run—
Cork'd up in crystal carefully.

Glow-worms, that round the tiny dishes,
Like little light-houses, were set up;
And pretty phosphorescent fishes,
That by their own gay light were eat up.

'Mong the few guests from Ether, came
That wicked Sylph, whom Love we call
My Lady knew him but by name,
My Lord, her husband, not at all.

Some prudent Gnomes, 'tis said, appriz'd
That he was coming, and, no doubt,
Alarm'd about his touch, advis'd
He should, by all means, be kept out.

But others disapprov'd this plan,
And, by his flame though somewhat frighted,
Thought Love too much a gentleman,
In such a dangerous place to light it.

[1] The late Mr. John Lyster, one of the oldest members and best actors of the Kilkenny Theatrical Society.

However, *there* he was—and dancing
With the fair Sylph, light as a feather;
They look'd like two fresh sunbeams, glancing,
At daybreak, down to earth together.

And all had gone off safe and well,
But for that plaguy torch, whose light,
Thought not *yet* kindled—who could tell
How soon, how devilishly, it *might?*

And so it chanced—which, in those dark
And fireless halls, was quite amazing;
Did we not know how small a spark
Can set the torch of Love a-blazing.

Whether it came (when close entangled
In the gay waltz) from her bright eyes,
Or from the *lucciole*, that spangled
Her locks of jet—is all surmise;

But certain 'tis the' ethereal girl
Did drop a spark, at some odd turning,
Which, by the waltz's windy whirl,
Was fann'd up into actual burning.

Oh for that Lamp's metallic gauze,
That curtain of protecting wire,
Which DAVY delicately draws
Around illicit, dangerous fire!—

The wall he sets 'twixt Flame and Air,
(Like that, which barr'd young Thisbe's bliss,)
Through whose small holes this dangerous pair
May see each other, but not kiss.[1]

At first the torch look'd rather bluely,
A sign, they say, that no good boded—
Then quick the gas became unruly,
And, crack! the ball-room all exploded.

Sylphs, gnomes, and fiddlers mix'd together,
With all their aunts, sons, cousins, nieces,
Like butterflies in stormy weather,
Were blown—legs, wings, and tails—to pieces!

While, 'mid these victims of the torch,
The Sylph, alas, too, bore her part—
Found lying, with a livid scorch,
As if from lightning, o'er her heart!

[1] ——— Partique dedère
Oscula quisque suæ, non pervenientia contrà.
OVID.

* * * * * *

"Well done"—a laughing Goblin said—
Escaping from this gaseous strife—
"'Tis not the *first* time Love has made
"A *blow-up* in connubial life!"

REMONSTRANCE.

After a Conversation with Lord John Russell, in which he had intimated some Idea of giving up all political Pursuits.

WHAT! *thou*, with thy genius, thy youth, and thy name—
Thou, born of a Russell—whose instinct to run
The accustom'd career of thy sires, is the same
As the eaglet's, to soar with his eyes on the sun!

Whose nobility comes to thee, stamp'd with a seal,
Far, far more ennobling than monarch e'er set;
With the blood of thy race, offer'd up for the weal
Of a nation, that swears by that martyrdom yet!

Shalt *thou* be faint-hearted and turn from the strife,
From the mighty arena, where all that is grand,
And devoted, and pure, and adorning in life,
'Tis for high-thoughted spirits like thine to command?

Oh no, never dream it—while good men despair
Between tyrants and traitors, and timid men bow,
Never think, for an instant, thy country can spare
Such a light from her darkening horizon as thou.

With a spirit, as meek as the gentlest of those
Who in life's sunny valley lie shelter'd and warm;
Yet bold and heroic as ever yet rose
To the top cliffs of Fortune, and breasted her storm;

With an ardour for liberty, fresh as, in youth,
It first kindles the bard and gives life to his lyre;
Yet mellow'd, ev'n now, by that mildness of truth,
Which tempers, but chills not, the patriot fire;

With an eloquence—not like those rills from a height,
Which sparkle, and foam, and in vapour are o'er;
But a current, that works out its way into light
Through the filtering recesses of thought and of lore.

Thus gifted, thou never canst sleep in the shade;
If the stirrings of Genius, the music of fame,
And the charms of thy cause have not power to persuade,
Yet think how to Freedom thou'rt pledg'd by thy Name.

Like the boughs of that laurel, by Delphi's decree
Set apart for the Fane and its service divine,
So the branches, that spring from the old Russell tree,
Are by Liberty *claim'd* for the use of her Shrine.

MY BIRTH-DAY.

"My birth-day"—what a diff'rent sound
That word had in my youthful ears!
And how, each time the day comes round,
Less and less white its mark appears!

When first our scanty years are told,
It seems like pastime to grow old;
And, as Youth counts the shining links,
That Time around him binds so fast,
Pleas'd with the task, he little thinks
How hard that chain will press at last.
Vain was the man, and false as vain,
Who said[1]—"were he ordain'd to run
"His long career of life again,
"He would do all that he *had* done."—
Ah, 'tis not thus the voice, that dwells
In sober birth-days, speaks to me;
Far otherwise—of time it tells,
Lavish'd unwisely, carelessly;
Of counsel mock'd; of talents, made
Haply for high and pure designs,
But oft, like Israel's incense, laid
Upon unholy, earthly shrines;
Of nursing many a wrong desire;
Of wandering after Love too far,
And taking every meteor fire,
That cross'd my pathway, for his star.—
All this it tells, and, could I trace
The' imperfect picture o'er again,
With pow'r to add, retouch, efface
The lights and shades, the joy and pain,
How little of the past would stay!
How quickly all should melt away—
All—but that Freedom of the Mind,
Which hath been more than wealth to me;
Those friendships, in my boyhood twin'd,
And kept till now unchangingly;
And that dear home, that saving ark,
Where Love's true light at last I've found,
Cheering within, when all grows dark,
And comfortless, and stormy round!

[1] FONTENELLE.—"Si je recommençais ma carrière, je ferai tout ce que j'ai fait."

FANCY.

THE more I've view'd this world, the more I've found,
That, fill'd as 'tis with scenes and creatures rare,
Fancy commands, within her own bright round,
A world of scenes and creatures far more fair.
Nor is it that her power can call up there
A single charm, that's not from nature won,—
No more than rainbows, in their pride, can wear
A single tint unborrow'd from the sun;
But 'tis the mental medium it shines through,
That lends to Beauty all its charm and hue;
As the same light, that o'er the level lake
One dull monotony of lustre flings,
Will, entering in the rounded rain-drop, make
Colours as gay as those on angels' wings!

SONG.

FANNY, DEAREST!

YES! had I leisure to sigh and mourn,
Fanny, dearest, for thee I'd sigh;
And every smile on my cheek should turn
To tears when thou art nigh.
But, between love, and wine, and sleep,
So busy a life I live,
That even the time it would take to weep
Is more than my heart can give.
Then wish me not to despair and pine,
Fanny, dearest of all the dears!
The Love that's order'd to bathe in wine,
Would be sure to take cold in tears.

Reflected bright in this heart of mine,
Fanny dearest, thy image lies;
But, ah! the mirror would cease to shine,
If dimm'd too often with sighs.
They lose the half of beauty's light,
Who view it through sorrow's tear;
And 'tis but to see thee truly bright
That I keep my eye-beams clear.

Then wait no longer till tears shall flow—
Fanny, dearest! the hope is vain;
If sunshine cannot dissolve thy snow,
I shall never attempt it with rain.

TRANSLATIONS FROM CATULLUS.

Carm. 70.

Dicebas quondam, &c.

TO LESBIA.

THOU told'st me, in our days of love,
That I had all that heart of thine;
That, ev'n to share the couch of Jove,
Thou would'st not, Lesbia, part from mine.

How purely wert thou worshipp'd then!
Not with the vague and vulgar fires
Which Beauty wakes in soulless men,—
But lov'd, as children by their sires.

That flatt'ring dream, alas, is o'er;—
I know thee now—and though these eyes
Doat on thee wildly as before,
Yet, even in doating, I despise.

Yes, sorceress—mad as it may seem—
With all thy craft, such spells adorn thee,
That passion even outlives esteem,
And I, at once, adore—and scorn thee.

Carm. 11.

Pauca nunciate meæ puellæ.

* * * * * *

COMRADES and friends! with whom, where'er
The fates have will'd through life I've rov'd,
Now speed ye home, and with you bear
These bitter words to her I've lov'd.

Tell her from fool to fool to run,
Where'er her vain caprice may call;
Of all her dupes not loving one,
But ruining and madd'ning all.

Bid her forget—what now is past—
Our once dear love, whose ruin lies
Like a fair flow'r, the meadow's last,
Which feels the ploughshare's edge, and dies!

Carm. 29.

Peninsularum Sirmio, insularumque Ocelle.

SWEET Sirmio! thou, the very eye
Of all peninsulas and isles,
That in our lakes of silver lie,
Or sleep, enwreath'd by Neptune's smiles—

How gladly back to thee I fly!
Still doubting, asking—*can* it be
That I have left Bithynia's sky,
And gaze in safety upon thee?

Oh! what is happier than to find
Our hearts at ease, our perils past;
When, anxious long, the lighten'd mind
Lays down its load of care at last:

When, tir'd with toil o'er land and deep,
Again we tread the welcome floor
Of our own home, and sink to sleep
On the long-wish'd-for bed once more.[1]

This, this it is, that pays alone
The ills of all life's former track.—
Shine out, my beautiful, my own
Sweet Sirmio! greet thy master back.

And thou, fair Lake, whose water quaffs
The light of heav'n like Lydia's sea,
Rejoice, rejoice—let all that laughs
Abroad, at home, laugh out for me!

TIBULLUS TO SULPICIA.

Nulla tuum nobis subducet femina lectum, &c. &c.
Lib. iv. Carm. 13.

"NEVER shall woman's smile have pow'r
"To win me from those gentle charms!"—
Thus swore I, in that happy hour,
When Love first gave thee to my arms.

And still alone thou charm'st my sight—
Still, though our city proudly shine
With forms and faces, fair and bright,
I see none fair or bright but thine.

[1] O quid solutis est beatius curis,
Cum mens onus reponit, ac peregrino
Labore fessi venimus larem ad nostrum,
Desideratoque acquiescimus lecto.

Would thou wert fair for only me,
And could'st no heart but mine allure!—
To all men else unpleasing be,
So shall I feel my prize secure.[1]

Oh, love like mine ne'er wants the zest
Of others' envy, others' praise;
But, in its silence safely blest,
Broods o'er a bliss it ne'er betrays.

Charm of my life! by whose sweet pow'r
All cares are hush'd, all ills subdued—
My light, in ev'n the darkest hour,
My crowd, in deepest solitude![2]

No, not though heav'n itself sent down
Some maid, of more than heav'nly charms,
With bliss undreamt thy bard to crown,
Would he for her forsake those arms!

IMITATION.

FROM THE FRENCH.

With women and apples both Paris and Adam
Made mischief enough in their day:—
God be prais'd that the fate of mankind, my dear Madam,
Depends not on *us*, the same way.
For, weak as I am with temptation to grapple,
The world would have doubly to rue thee;
Like Adam, I'd gladly take *from* thee the apple,
Like Paris, at once give it *to* thee.

INVITATION TO DINNER,

ADDRESSED TO LORD LANSDOWNE.

September, 1818.

Some think we bards have nothing real;
That poets live among the stars so,
Their very dinners are ideal,—
(And, heaven knows, too oft they *are* so,)—
For instance, that we have, instead
Of vulgar chops, and stews, and hashes,
First course—a Phœnix, at the head,
Done in its own celestial ashes;
At foot, a cygnet, which kept singing
All the time its neck was wringing.
Side dishes, thus—Minerva's owl,
Or any such like learned fowl:
Doves, such as heav'n's poulterer gets,
When Cupid shoots his mother's pets.
Larks, stew'd in Morning's roseate breath,
Or roasted by a sunbeam's splendour;
And nightingales, berhymed to death—
Like young pigs whipp'd to make them tender.

Such fare may suit those bards, who're able
To banquet at Duke Humphrey's table;
But as for me, who've long been taught
To eat and drink like other people;
And can put up with mutton, bought
Where Bromham[3] rears its ancient steeple—
If Lansdowne will consent to share
My humble feast, though rude the fare,
Yet, season'd by that salt he brings
From Attica's salinest springs,
'Twill turn to dainties;—while the cup
Beneath his influence bright'ning up,
Like that of Baucis, touch'd by Jove,
Will sparkle fit for gods above!

VERSES TO THE POET CRABBE'S INKSTAND.[4]

WRITTEN MAY, 1832.

All, as he left it!—ev'n the pen,
So lately at that mind's command,
Carelessly lying, as if then
Just fall'n from his gifted hand.

Have we then lost him? scarce an hour,
A little hour, seems to have past,
Since Life and Inspiration's pow'r
Around that relic breath'd their last.

Ah, pow'rless now—like talisman,
Found in some vanish'd wizard's halls,
Whose mighty charm with him began,
Whose charm with him extinguish'd falls.

1 Displiceas aliis, sic ego tutus ero.

2 Tu mihi curarum requies, tu nocte vel atrâ
Lumen, et in solis tu mihi turba locis.

3 A picturesque village in sight of my cottage, and from which it is separated but by a small verdant valley.

4 Soon after Mr. Crabbe's death, the sons of that gentleman did me the honour of presenting to me the inkstand, pencil, &c. which their distinguished father had long been in the habit of using.

Yet though, alas! the gifts that shone
Around that pen's exploring track,
Be now, with its great master, gone,
Nor living hand can call them back;

Who does not feel, while thus his eyes
Rest on the enchanter's broken wand,
Each earth-born spell it work'd arise
Before him in succession grand?—

Grand, from the Truth that reigns o'er all;
The unshrinking Truth, that lets her light
Through Life's low, dark, interior fall,
Opening the whole, severely bright:

Yet softening, as she frowns along,
O'er scenes which angels weep to see—
Where Truth herself half veils the Wrong,
In pity of the Misery.

True bard!—and simple, as the race
Of true-born poets ever are,
When, stooping from their starry place,
They're children, near, though gods, afar.

How freshly doth my mind recall,
'Mong the few days I've known with thee,
One that, most buoyantly of all,
Floats in the wake of memory;[1]

When he, the poet, doubly grac'd,
In life, as in his perfect strain,
With that pure, mellowing power of Taste,
Without which Fancy shines in vain;

Who in his page will leave behind,
Pregnant with genius though it be,
But half the treasures of a mind,
Where Sense o'er all holds mastery:—

Friend of long years! of friendship tried
Through many a bright and dark event;
In doubts, my judge—in taste, my guide—
In all, my stay and ornament!

He, too, was of our feast that day,
And all were guests of one, whose hand
Hath shed a new and deathless ray
Around the lyre of this great land;

In whose sea-odes—as in those shells
Where Ocean's voice of majesty
Seems still to sound—immortal dwells
Old Albion's Spirit of the Sea.

Such was our host; and though, since then,
Slight clouds have ris'n twixt him and me,
Who would not grasp such hand again,
Stretch'd forth again in amity?

Who can, in this short life, afford
To let such mists a moment stay,
When thus one frank, atoning word,
Like sunshine, melts them all away?

Bright was our board that day—though *one*
Unworthy brother there had place;
As 'mong the horses of the Sun,
One was, they say, of earthly race.

Yet, *next* to Genius is the power
Of feeling where true Genius lies;
And there was light around that hour
Such as, in memory, never dies;

Light which comes o'er me, as I gaze,
Thou Relic of the Dead, on thee,
Like all such dreams of vanish'd days,
Brightly, indeed—but mournfully!

TO

CAROLINE, VISCOUNTESS VALLETORT.

WRITTEN AT LACOCK ABBEY, JANUARY, 1832.

When I would sing thy beauty's light,
Such various forms, and all so bright,
I've seen thee, from thy childhood, wear,
I know not which to call most fair,
Nor 'mong the countless charms that spring
For ever round thee, *which* to sing.

When I would paint thee, as thou *art*,
Then all thou *wert* comes o'er my heart—
The graceful child, in beauty's dawn,
Within the nursery's shade withdrawn,
Or peeping out—like a young moon
Upon a world 'twill brighten soon.
Then next, in girlhood's blushing hour,
As from thy own lov'd Abbey-tow'r

[1] The lines that follow allude to a day passed in company with Mr. Crabbe, many years since, when a party, consisting only of Mr. Rogers, Mr. Crabbe, and the author of these verses, had the pleasure of dining with Mr. Thomas Campbell, at his house at Sydenham.

I've seen thee look, all radiant, down,
With smiles that to the hoary frown
Of centuries round thee lent a ray,
Chasing even Age's gloom away;—
Or, in the world's resplendent throng,
As I have mark'd thee glide along,
Among the crowds of fair and great
A spirit, pure and separate,
To which even Admiration's eye
Was fearful to approach too nigh;—
A creature, circled by a spell
Within which nothing wrong could dwell;
And fresh and clear as from the source,
Holding through life her limpid course,
Like Arethusa through the sea,
Stealing in fountain purity.

Now, too, another change of light!
As noble bride, still meekly bright,
Thou bring'st thy Lord a dower above
All earthly price, pure woman's love;
And show'st what lustre Rank receives,
When with his proud Corinthian leaves
Her rose thus high-bred Beauty weaves.

Wonder not if, where all's so fair
To choose were more than bard can dare;
Wonder not if, while every scene
I've watch'd thee through so bright hath been,
The' enamour'd Muse should, in her quest
Of beauty, know not where to rest,
But, dazzled, at thy feet thus fall,
Hailing thee beautiful in all!

A SPECULATION.

Of all speculations the market holds forth,
The best that I know for a lover of pelf,
Is to buy Marcus up, at the price he is worth,
And then sell him at that which he sets on himself.

TO MY MOTHER.

WRITTEN IN A POCKET BOOK, 1822.

They tell us of an Indian tree,
Which, howsoe'er the sun and sky
May tempt its boughs to wander free,
And shoot, and blossom, wide and high,
Far better loves to bend its arms
Downward again to that dear earth,
From which the life, that fills and warms
Its grateful being, first had birth.

'Tis thus, though woo'd by flattering friends,
And fed with fame (*if* fame it be)
This heart, my own dear mother, bends,
With love's true instinct, back to thee!

LOVE AND HYMEN.

Love had a fever—ne'er could close
His little eyes till day was breaking;
And wild and strange enough, Heav'n knows,
The things he rav'd about while waking.

To let him pine so were a sin;—
One, to whom all the world's a debtor—
So Doctor Hymen was call'd in,
And Love that night slept rather better.

Next day the case gave further hope yet,
Though still some ugly fever latent;—
"Dose, as before"—a gentle opiate,
For which old Hymen has a patent.

After a month of daily call,
So fast the dose went on restoring,
That Love, who first ne'er slept at all,
Now took, the rogue! to downright snoring.

LINES

ON THE

ENTRY OF THE AUSTRIANS INTO NAPLES, 1821.

Carbone notati.

Ay—down to the dust with them, slaves as they are,
From this hour, let the blood in their dastardly veins,
That shrunk at the first touch of Liberty's war,
Be wasted for tyrants, or stagnate in chains.

On, on like a cloud, through their beautiful vales,
Ye locusts of tyranny, blasting them o'er—
Fill, fill up their wide sunny waters, ye sails
From each slave-mart of Europe, and shadow their shore!

Let their fate be a mock-word—let men of all lands
Laugh out, with a scorn that shall ring to the poles,
When each sword, that the cowards let fall from their hands,
Shall be forg'd into fetters to enter their souls.

And deep, and more deep, as the iron is driv'n,
Base slaves! let the whet of their agony be,
To think—as the Doom'd often think of that heav'n
They had once within reach—that they *might* have been free.

Oh shame! when there was not a bosom, whose heat
Ever rose 'bove the *zero* of C————h's heart,
That did not, like echo, your war-hymn repeat,
And send all its prayers with your Liberty's start;

When the world stood in hope—when a spirit, that breath'd
The fresh air of the olden time, whisper'd about;
And the swords of all Italy, half-way unsheath'd,
But waited one conquering cry, to flash out!

When around you the shades of your Mighty in fame,
FILICAJAS and PETRARCHS, seem'd bursting to view,
And their words, and their warnings, like tongues of bright flame
Over Freedom's apostles, fell kindling on you!

Oh shame! that, in such a proud moment of life,
Worth the hist'ry of ages, when, had you but hurl'd
One bolt at your tyrant invader, that strife
Between freemen and tyrants had spread through the world—

That then—oh! disgrace upon manhood—ev'n then,
You should falter, should cling to your pitiful breath;
Cow'r down into beasts, when you might have stood men,
And prefer the slave's life of prostration to death.

It is strange, it is dreadful:—shout, Tyranny, shout
Through your dungeons and palaces, "Freedom is o'er;"—
If there lingers one spark of her light, tread it out,
And return to your empire of darkness once more.

For, if *such* are the braggarts that claim to be free,
Come, Despot of Russia, thy feet let me kiss;
Far nobler to live the brute bondman of thee,
Than to sully ev'n chains by a struggle like this!

THE LOVES OF THE ANGELS.

PREFACE.

THE Eastern story of the angels Harut and Marut [1], and the Rabbinical fictions of the loves of Uzziel and Shámchazai [2], are the only sources to which I need refer, for the origin of the notion on which this Romance is founded. In addition to the fitness of the subject for poetry, it struck me also as capable of affording an allegorical medium, through which might be shadowed out (as I have endeavoured to do in the following stories) the fall of the Soul from its original purity [3]—the loss of light and happiness which it suffers, in the pursuit of this world's perishable pleasures—and the

[1] See note on page 468.

[2] Hyde, de Relig. Vet. Persarum, p. 272.

[3] The account which Macrobius gives [a] of the downward journey of the Soul, through that gate of the zodiac which opens into the lower spheres, is a curious specimen of the wild fancies passed for philosophy in ancient times.

[a] In Somn. Scipionis, cap. 12.

In the system of Manes, the luminous or spiritual principle owes its corruption not to any evil tendency of its own, but to a violent inroad of the spirits of darkness, who, finding themselves in the neighbourhood of this pure light, and becoming passionately enamoured of its beauty, break the boundaries between them, and take forcible possession of it. [b]

[b] See a Treatise "De la Religion des Perses," by the Abbé Foucher, Mémoires de l'Académie, tom. xxxi. p. 456.

punishments, both from conscience and Divine justice, with which impurity, pride, and presumptuous inquiry into the awful secrets of Heaven are sure to be visited. The beautiful story of Cupid and Psyche owes its chief charm to this sort of "veiled meaning," and it has been my wish (however I may have failed in the attempt) to communicate to the following pages the same *moral* interest.

Among the doctrines, or notions, derived by Plato from the East, one of the most natural and sublime is that which inculcates the pre-existence of the soul, and its gradual descent into this dark material world, from that region of spirit and light which it is supposed to have once inhabited, and to which, after a long lapse of purification and trial, it will return. This relief, under various symbolical forms, may be traced through almost all the Oriental theologies. The Chaldeans represent the Soul as originally endowed with wings, which fall away when it sinks from its native element, and must be reproduced before it can hope to return. Some disciples of Zoroaster once inquired of him, "How the wings of the Soul might be made to grow again?"—"By sprinkling them," he replied, "with the Waters of Life."—"But where are those Waters to be found?" they asked.—"In the Garden of God," replied Zoroaster.

The mythology of the Persians has allegorized the same doctrine, in the history of those genii of light who strayed from their dwellings in the stars, and obscured their original nature by mixture with this material sphere; while the Egyptians, connecting it with the descent and ascent of the sun in the zodiac, considered Autumn as emblematic of the Soul's decline towards darkness, and the re-appearance of Spring as its return to life and light.

Besides the chief spirits of the Mahometan heaven, such as Gabriel, the angel of Revelations, Israfil, by whom the last trumpet is to be sounded, and Azrael, the angel of death, there were also a number of subaltern intelligences, of which tradition has preserved the names, appointed to preside over the different stages, or ascents, into which the celestial world was supposed to be divided.[1] Thus Kelail governs the fifth heaven; while Sadiel, the presiding spirit of the third, is also employed in steadying the motions of the earth, which would be in a constant state of agitation, if this angel did not keep his foot planted upon its orb.[2]

Among other miraculous interpositions in favour of Mahomet, we find commemorated in the pages of the Koran the appearance of five thousand angels on his side at the battle of Bedr.

The ancient Persians supposed that Ormuzd appointed thirty angels to preside successively over the days of the month, and twelve greater ones to assume the government of the months themselves; among whom Bahman (to whom Ormuzd committed the custody of all animals, except man,) was the greatest. Mihr, the angel of the 7th month, was also the spirit that watched over the affairs of friendship and love;—Chûr had the care of the disk of the sun;—Mah was agent for the concerns of the moon;—Isphandârmaz (whom Cazvin calls the Spirit of the Earth) was the tutelar genius of good and virtuous women, &c. &c. &c. For all this the reader may consult the 19th and 20th chapters of Hyde de Relig. Vet. Persarum, where the names and attributes of these daily and monthly angels are with much minuteness and erudition explained. It appears, from the Zend-avesta, that the Persians had a certain office or prayer for every day of the month (addressed to the particular angel who presided over it), which they called the Sirouzé.

The Celestial Hierarchy of the Syrians, as described by Kircher, appears to be the most regularly graduated of any of these systems. In the sphere of the Moon they placed the angels, in that of Mercury the archangels, Venus and the Sun contained the Principalities and the Powers;—and so on to the summit of the planetary system, where, in the sphere of Saturn, the Thrones had their station. Above this was the habitation of the Cherubim in the sphere of the fixed stars; and still higher, in the region of those stars which are so distant as to be imperceptible, the Seraphim, we are told, the most perfect of all celestial creatures, dwelt.

The Sabeans also (as D'Herbelot tells us) had their classes of angels, to whom they prayed as mediators, or intercessors; and the Arabians worshipped *female* angels, whom they called Benad Hasche, or, Daughters of God.

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[1] "We adorned the lower heaven with lights, and placed therein a guard of angels."—*Koran*, chap. xli.

[2] See D'Herbelot, *passim*.

THE LOVES OF THE ANGELS.

'Twas when the world was in its prime,
When the fresh stars had just begun
Their race of glory, and young Time
Told his first birth-days by the sun;
When, in the light of Nature's dawn
Rejoicing, men and angels met[1]
On the high hill and sunny lawn,—
Ere sorrow came, or Sin had drawn
'Twixt man and heav'n her curtain yet!
When earth lay nearer to the skies
Than in these days of crime and woe,
And mortals saw, without surprise,
In the mid-air, angelic eyes
Gazing upon this world below.

Alas, that Passion should profane,
Ev'n then, the morning of the earth!
That, sadder still, the fatal stain
Should fall on hearts of heav'nly birth—
And that from Woman's love should fall
So dark a stain, most sad of all!

One ev'ning, in that primal hour,
On a hill's side, where hung the ray
Of sunset, bright'ning rill and bow'r,
Three noble youths conversing lay;
And, as they look'd, from time to time,
To the far sky, where Daylight furl'd
His radiant wing, their brows sublime
Bespoke them of that distant world—
Spirits, who once, in brotherhood
Of faith and bliss, near Alla stood,
And o'er whose cheeks full oft had blown
The wind that breathes from Alla's throne,[2]
Creatures of light, such as *still* play,
Like motes in sunshine, round the Lord,
And through their infinite array
Transmit each moment, night and day,
The echo of His luminous word!

Of Heaven they spoke, and, still more oft,
Of the bright eyes that charm'd them thence;
Till, yielding gradual to the soft
And balmy evening's influence—
The silent breathing of the flow'rs
The melting light that beam'd above,
As on their first, fond, erring hours,
Each told the story of his love,
The history of that hour unblest,
When, like a bird, from its high nest
Won down by fascinating eyes,
For Woman's smile he lost the skies.

The First who spoke was one, with look
The least celestial of the three—
A Spirit of light mould, that took
The prints of earth most yieldingly;
Who, ev'n in heav'n, was not of those
Nearest the Throne[3], but held a place
Far off, among those shining rows
That circle out through endless space,
And o'er whose wings the light from Him
In Heaven's centre falls most dim.

Still fair and glorious, he but shone
Among those youths the' unheavenliest one—
A creature, to whom light remain'd
From Eden still, but alter'd, stain'd,
And o'er whose brow not Love alone
A blight had, in his transit, cast,
But other, earthlier joys had gone,
And left their foot-prints as they pass'd.
Sighing, as back through ages flown,
Like a tomb-searcher, Mem'ry ran,
Lifting each shroud that Time had thrown
O'er buried hopes, he thus began:—

FIRST ANGEL'S STORY.

"'Twas in a land, that far away
Into the golden orient lies,
Where Nature knows not night's delay,
But springs to meet her bridegroom, Day,
Upon the threshold of the skies.
One morn, on earthly mission sent,[4]
And mid-way choosing where to light,

[1] The Mahometans believe, says D'Herbelot, that in that early period of the world, "les hommes n'eurent qu'une seule religion, et furent souvent visités des Anges, qui leur donnoient la main."

[2] "To which will be joined the sound of the bells hanging on the trees, which will be put in motion by the wind proceeding from the Throne, so often as the Blessed wish for music." See *Sale's Koran, Prelim Dissert.*

[3] The ancient Persians supposed that this Throne was placed in the Sun, and that through the stars were distributed the various classes of Angels that encircled it. The Basilidians supposed that there were three hundred and sixty-five orders of angels, "dont la perfection alloit en décroissant, à mesure qu'ils s'éloignoient de la première classe d'esprits placés dans le premier ciel." See *Dupuis, Orig. des Cultes*, tom. ii. p. 112.

[4] It appears that, in most languages, the term employed for an angel means also a messenger. Firischteh, the Persian word for angel, is derived (says D'Herbelot) from the verb Firischtin, to send. The Hebrew term, too, Melak, has the same signification.

I saw, from the blue element—
Oh beautiful, but fatal sight!
One of earth's fairest womankind,
Half veil'd from view, or rather shrin'd
In the clear crystal of a brook;
Which, while it hid no single gleam
Of her young beauties, made them look
More spirit-like, as they might seem
Through the dim shadowing of a dream.
Pausing in wonder I look'd on,
While, playfully around her breaking
The waters, that like diamonds shone
She mov'd in light of her own making.
At length, as from that airy height
I gently lower'd my breathless flight,
The tremble of my wings all o'er
(For through each plume I felt the thrill)
Startled her, as she reach'd the shore
Of that small lake—her mirror still—
Above whose brink she stood, like snow
When rosy with a sunset glow.
Never shall I forget those eyes!—
The shame, the innocent surprise
Of that bright face, when in the air
Uplooking, she beheld me there.
It seem'd as if each thought, and look,
And motion, were that minute chain'd
Fast to the spot, such root she took,
And—like a sunflower by a brook,
With face upturn'd—so still remain'd!

In pity to the wond'ring maid,
Though loth from such a vision turning,
Downward I bent, beneath the shade
Of my spread wings to hide the burning
Of glances, which—I well could feel—
For me, for her, too warmly shone;
But, ere I could again unseal
My restless eyes, or even steal
One sidelong look, the maid was gone—
Hid from me in the forest leaves,
Sudden as when, in all her charms
Of full-blown light, some cloud receives
The Moon into his dusky arms.

'Tis not in words to tell the pow'r,
The despotism that, from that hour,
Passion held o'er me. Day and night
I sought around each neighbouring spot;
And, in the chase of this sweet light,
My task, and heav'n, and all forgot;—
All, but the one, sole, haunting dream
Of her I saw in that bright stream.

Nor was it long, ere by her side
I found myself, whole happy days,
List'ning to words, whose music vied
With our own Eden's seraph lays,
When seraph lays are warm'd by love,
But, wanting *that*, far, far above!—
And looking into eyes where, blue
And beautiful, like skies seen through
The sleeping wave, for me there shone
A heaven, more worshipp'd than my own.
Oh what, while I could hear and see
Such words and looks, was heav'n to me?
Though gross the air on earth I drew,
'Twas blessed, while she breath'd it too;
Though dark the flow'rs, though dim the sky,
Love lent them light, while she was nigh.
Throughout creation I but knew
Two separate worlds—the *one*, that small,
Belov'd, and consecrated spot
Where LEA *was*—the other, all
The dull, wide waste, where she was *not!*

But vain my suit, my madness vain;
Though gladly, from her eyes to gain
One earthly look, one stray desire,
I would have torn the wings, that hung
Furl'd at my back, and o'er the Fire
In GEHIM's[1] pit their fragments flung;—
'Twas hopeless all—pure and unmov'd
She stood, as lilies in the light
Of the hot noon but look more white;—
And though she lov'd me, deeply lov'd,
'Twas not as man, as mortal—no,
Nothing of earth was in that glow—
She lov'd me but as one, of race
Angelic, from that radiant place
She saw so oft in dreams—that Heaven,
To which her prayers at morn were sent,
And on whose light she gaz'd at even,
Wishing for wings, that she might go
Out of this shadowy world below,
To that free, glorious element!

Well I remember by her side
Sitting at rosy even-tide,

[1] The name given by the Mahometans to the infernal regions, over which, they say, the angel Tabhek presides.
By the seven gates of hell, mentioned in the Koran, the commentators understand seven different departments or wards, in which seven different sorts of sinners are to be punished. The first, called Gehennem, is for sinful Mussulmans; the second, Ladha, for Christian offenders; the third, Hothama, is appointed for Jews; and the fourth and fifth, called Sair and Sacar, are destined to receive the Sabæans and the worshippers of fire: in the sixth, named Gehim, those pagans and idolaters who admit a plurality of gods are placed; while into the abyss of the seventh, called Derk Asfal, or the Deepest, the hypocritical canters of *all* religions are thrown.

When, — turning to the star, whose head
Look'd out, as from a bridal bed,
At that mute, blushing hour, — she said,
'Oh! that it were my doom to be
'The Spirit of yon beauteous star,
'Dwelling up there in purity,
'Alone, as all such bright things are; —
'My sole employ to pray and shine,
'To light my censer at the sun
'And cast its fire towards the shrine
'Of Him in heav'n, the' Eternal one!'

So innocent the maid, so free
From mortal taint in soul and frame,
Whom 'twas my crime — my destiny —
To love, ay, burn for, with a flame,
To which earth's wildest fires are tame.
Had you but seen her look, when first
From my mad lips the' avowal burst;
Not anger'd — no — the feeling came
From depths beyond mere anger's flame —
It was a sorrow, calm as deep,
A mournfulness that could not weep,
So fill'd her heart was to the brink,
So fix'd and froz'n with grief, to think
That angel natures — that ev'n I,
Whose love she clung to, as the tie
Between her spirit and the sky —
Should fall thus headlong from the height
Of all that heav'n hath pure and bright!

That very night — my heart had grown
Impatient of its inward burning;
The term, too, of my stay was flown,
And the bright Watchers near the throne,
Already, if a meteor shone
Between them and this nether zone,
Thought 'twas their herald's wing returning.
Oft did the potent spell-word, giv'n
To Envoys hither from the skies,
To be pronounc'd, when back to heav'n
It is their time or wish to rise,
Come to my lips that fatal day;
And once, too, was so nearly spoken,
That my spread plumage in the ray
And breeze of heav'n began to play; —
When my heart fail'd — the spell was broken —
The word unfinish'd died away,
And my check'd plumes, ready to soar,
Fell slack and lifeless as before.

How could I leave a world which she,
Or lost or won, made all to me?
No matter where my wand'rings were,
So there she look'd, breath'd, mov'd about —
Woe, ruin, death, more sweet with her,
Than Paradise itself, without!

But, to return — that very day
A feast was held, where, full of mirth,
Came — crowding thick as flow'rs that play
In summer winds — the young and gay
And beautiful of this bright earth.
And she was there, and 'mid the young
And beautiful stood first, alone;
Though on her gentle brow still hung
The shadow I that morn had thrown —
The first, that ever shame or woe
Had cast upon its vernal snow.
My heart was madden'd; — in the flush
Of the wild revel I gave way
To all that frantic mirth — that rush
Of desp'rate gaiety, which they,
Who never felt how pain's excess
Can break out thus, think happiness!
Sad mimicry of mirth and life,
Whose flashes come but from the strife
Of inward passions — like the light
Struck out by clashing swords in fight.

Then, too, that juice of earth, the bane
And blessing of man's heart and brain —
That draught of sorcery, which brings
Phantoms of fair, forbidden things —
Whose drops, like those of rainbows, smile
Upon the mists that circle man,
Bright'ning not only Earth, the while,
But grasping Heav'n, too, in their span! —
Then first the fatal wine-cup rain'd
Its dews of darkness through my lips,[1]
Casting whate'er of light remain'd
To my lost soul into eclipse;
And filling it with such wild dreams,
Such fantasies and wrong desires,
As, in the absence of heav'n's beams,
Haunt us for ever — like wild-fires
That walk this earth, when day retires.

Now hear the rest; — our banquet done,
I sought her in the' accustom'd bow'r,

[1] I have already mentioned that some of the circumstances of this story were suggested to me by the eastern legend of the two angels, Harut and Marut, as given by Mariti, who says that the author of the Taalim founds upon it the Mahometan prohibition of wine.[a] I have since found that Mariti's version of the tale (which differs also from that of Dr. Prideaux, in his Life of Mahomet,) is taken from the French Encyclopédie, in which work, under the head "Arot et Marot, the reader will find it.

[a] The Bahardanush tells the fable differently.

Where late we oft, when day was gone,
And the world hush'd, had met alone,
  At the same silent, moonlight hour.
Her eyes, as usual, were upturn'd
To her lov'd star, whose lustre burn'd
  Purer than ever on that night;
  While she, in looking, grew more bright,
  As though she borrow'd of its light.

There was a virtue in that scene,
  A spell of holiness around,
Which, had my burning brain not been
  Thus madden'd, would have held me bound,
  As though I trod celestial ground.
Ev'n as it was, with soul all flame,
  And lips that burn'd in their own sighs,
I stood to gaze, with awe and shame—
The memory of Eden came
  Full o'er me when I saw those eyes;
And though too well each glance of mine
  To the pale, shrinking maiden prov'd
How far, alas, from aught divine,
Aught worthy of so pure a shrine,
  Was the wild love with which I lov'd,
Yet must she, too, have seen — oh yes,
  'Tis soothing but to *think* she saw
The deep, true, soul-felt tenderness,
  The homage of an Angel's awe
To her, a mortal, whom pure love
Then plac'd above him — far above—
And all that struggle to repress
A sinful spirit's mad excess,
Which work'd within me at that hour,
  When, with a voice, where Passion shed
All the deep sadness of her pow'r,
  Her melancholy power — I said,
'Then be it so; if back to heaven
  'I must unlov'd, unpitied fly,
'Without one blest memorial giv'n
  'To soothe me in that lonely sky;
'One look, like those the young and fond
  'Give when they're parting — which would be,
'Ev'n in remembrance, far beyond
  'All heav'n hath left of bliss for me!

'Oh, but to see that head recline
  'A minute on this trembling arm,
'And those mild eyes look up to mine,
  'Without a dread, a thought of harm!
'To meet, but once, the thrilling touch
  'Of lips too purely fond to fear me—
'Or, if that boon be all too much,
  'Ev'n thus to bring their fragrance near me!
'Nay, shrink not so — a look — a word—
  'Give them but kindly and I fly;
'Already, see, my plumes have stirr'd,
  'And tremble for their home on high.
'Thus be our parting — cheek to cheek—
  'One minute's lapse will be forgiv'n,
'And thou, the next, shalt hear me speak
  'The spell that plumes my wing for heaven!'

While thus I spoke, the fearful maid,
Of me, and of herself afraid,
Had shrinking stood, like flow'rs beneath
The scorching of the south-wind's breath:
But when I nam'd — alas, too well,
  I now recall, though wilder'd then, —
Instantly, when I nam'd the spell,
  Her brow, her eyes uprose again,
And, with an eagerness, that spoke
The sudden light that o'er her broke,
'The spell, the spell! — oh, speak it now,
  'And I will bless thee!' she exclaim'd—
  Unknowing what I did, inflam'd,
And lost already, on her brow
  I stamp'd one burning kiss, and nam'd
The mystic word, till then ne'er told
To living creature of earth's mould!
Scarce was it said, when, quick as thought,
Her lips from mine, like echo, caught
The holy sound — her hands and eyes
Were instant lifted to the skies,
And thrice to heav'n she spoke it out
  With that triumphant look Faith wears,
When not a cloud of fear or doubt,
  A vapour from this vale of tears,
  Between her and her God appears!

That very moment her whole frame
All bright and glorified became,
And at her back I saw unclose
Two wings, magnificent as those
  That sparkle around Alla's Throne,
Whose plumes, as buoyantly she rose
  Above me, in the moon-beam shone
With a pure light, which — from its hue,
Unknown upon this earth — I knew
Was light from Eden, glist'ning through!
Most holy vision! ne'er before
  Did aught so radiant — since the day
When Eblis, in his downfal, bore
  The third of the bright stars away—
Rise, in earth's beauty, to repair
That loss of light and glory there!

But did I tamely view her flight?
  Did not *I*, too, proclaim out thrice
The pow'rful words that were, that night, —
Oh ev'n for heaven too much delight! —

Again to bring us, eyes to eyes,
And soul to soul, in Paradise?
I did — I spoke it o'er and o'er —
I pray'd, I wept, but all in vain;
For me the spell had pow'r no more.
There seem'd around me some dark chain
Which still, as I essay'd to soar,
Baffled, alas, each wild endeavour:
Dead lay my wings, as they have lain
Since that sad hour, and will remain —
So wills the' offended God — for ever!

It was to yonder star I trac'd
Her journey up the' illumin'd waste —
That isle in the blue firmament,
To which so oft her fancy went
In wishes and in dreams before,
And which was now — such, Purity,
Thy blest reward — ordain'd to be
Her home of light for evermore!
Once — or did I but fancy so? —
Ev'n in her flight to that fair sphere,
'Mid all her spirit's new-felt glow,
A pitying look she turn'd below
On him who stood in darkness here;
Him whom, perhaps, if vain regret
Can dwell in heaven, she pities yet;
And oft, when looking to this dim
And distant world, remembers him.

But soon that passing dream was gone;
Farther and farther off she shone,
Till lessen'd to a point, as small
As are those specks that yonder burn, —
Those vivid drops of light, that fall
The last from Day's exhausted urn.
And when at length she merg'd, afar,
Into her own immortal star,
And when at length my straining sight
Had caught her wing's last fading ray,
That minute from my soul the light
Of heav'n and love both pass'd away;
And I forgot my home, my birth,
Profan'd my spirit, sunk my brow,
And revell'd in gross joys of earth,
Till I became — what I am now!"

The Spirit bow'd his head in shame;
A shame, that of itself would tell —
Were there not ev'n those breaks of flame,
Celestial, through his clouded frame —
How grand the height from which he fell!
That holy Shame, which ne'er forgets
The' unblench'd renown it us'd to wear;
Whose blush remains, when Virtue sets,
To show her sunshine *has* been there.

Once only, while the tale he told,
Were his eyes lifted to behold
That happy stainless star, where she
Dwelt in her bower of purity!
One minute did he look, and then —
As though he felt some deadly pain
From its sweet light through heart and brain —
Shrunk back, and never look'd again.

Who was the Second Spirit? he
With the proud front and piercing glance —
Who seem'd when viewing heaven's expanse,
As though his far-sent eye could see
On, on into the' Immensity
Behind the veils of that blue sky,
Where ALLA's grandest secrets lie? —
His wings, the while, though day was gone,
Flashing with many a various hue
Of light they from themselves alone,
Instinct with Eden's brightness, drew.
'Twas RUBI — once among the prime
And flow'r of those bright creatures, nam'd
Spirits of Knowledge [1], who o'er Time
And Space and Thought an empire claim'd,
Second alone to Him, whose light
Was, ev'n to theirs, as day to night;
'Twixt whom and them was distance far
And wide as would the journey be
To reach from any island star
The vague shores of Infinity!

'Twas RUBI, in whose mournful eye
Slept the dim light of days gone by;
Whose voice, though sweet, fell on the ear
Like echoes, in some silent place,
When first awak'd for many a year;
And when he smil'd, if o'er his face
Smile ever shone, 'twas like the grace
Of moonlight rainbows, fair, but wan,
The sunny life, the glory gone.
Ev'n o'er his pride, though still the same,
A soft'ning shade from sorrow came;
And though at times his spirit knew
The kindlings of disdain and ire,

[1] The Kerubiim, as the Mussulmans calls them, are often joined indiscriminatelywith the Asrafil or Seraphim, under one common name of Azazil, by which all spirits who approach near the throne of Alla are designated.

Short was the fitful glare they threw —
Like the last flashes, fierce but few,
  Seen through some noble pile on fire!

Such was the Angel, who now broke
  The silence that had come o'er all,
When he, the Spirit that last spoke,
  Clos'd the sad hist'ry of his fall;
And, while a sacred lustre, flown
  For many a day relum'd his cheek—
Beautiful, as in days of old;
And not those eloquent lips alone
  But every feature seem'd to speak—
Thus his eventful story told:—

SECOND ANGEL'S STORY.

"You both remember well the day,
  When unto Eden's new-made bow'rs,
ALLA convok'd the bright array
  Of his supreme angelic pow'rs,
To witness the one wonder yet,
  Beyond man, angel, star, or sun,
He must achieve, ere he could set
  His seal upon the world, as done—
To see that last perfection rise,
  That crowning of creation's birth,
When, mid the worship and surprise
Of circling angels, Woman's eyes
  First open'd upon heav'n and earth;
And from their lids a thrill was sent,
That through each living spirit went,
Like first light through the firmament!

Can you forget how gradual stole
The fresh-awaken'd breath of soul
Throughout her perfect form—which seem'd
To grow transparent, as there beam'd
That dawn of Mind within, and caught
New loveliness from each new thought?
Slow as o'er summer seas we trace
  The progress of the noontide air,
Dimpling its bright and silent face
Each minute into some new grace,
  And varying heav'n's reflections there—
Or, like the light of ev'ning, stealing
  O'er some fair temple, which all day
Hath slept in shadow, slow revealing
  Its several beauties, ray by ray,
Till it shines out, a thing to bless,
All full of light and loveliness.

Can you forget her blush, when round
Through Eden's lone, enchanted ground
She look'd, and saw, the sea—the skies—
  And heard the rush of many a wing,
  On high behests then vanishing;
And saw the last few angel eyes,
Still ling'ring—mine among the rest,—
Reluctant leaving scenes so blest?
From that miraculous hour, the fate
  Of this new, glorious Being dwelt
For ever, with a spell-like weight,
Upon my spirit—early, late,
  Whate'er I did, or dream'd, or felt,
The thought of what might yet befall
That matchless creature mix'd with all.—
Nor she alone, but her whole race
  Through ages yet to come—whate'er
  Of feminine, and fond, and fair,
Should spring from that pure mind and face,
  All wak'd my soul's intensest care;
Their forms, souls, feelings, still to me
Creation's strangest mystery!

It was my doom—ev'n from the first,
When witnessing the primal burst
Of Nature's wonders, I saw rise
Those bright creations in the skies,—
Those worlds instinct with life and light,
Which man, remote, but sees by night,—
It was my doom still to be haunted
  By some new wonder, some sublime
  And matchless work, that, for the time
Held all my soul, enchain'd, enchanted,
And left me not a thought, a dream,
A word, but on that only theme!

The wish to know—that endless thirst,
  Which ev'n by quenching is awak'd,
And which becomes or blest or curst,
  As is the fount whereat 'tis slak'd—
Still urg'd me onward, with desire
Insatiate, to explore, inquire—
Whate'er the wondrous things might be,
That wak'd each new idolatry—
  Their cause, aim, source, whence-ever sprung—
Their inmost pow'rs, as though for me
  Existence on that knowledge hung.

Oh what a vision were the stars,
  When first I saw them burn on high,
Rolling along, like living cars
  Of light, for gods to journey by![1]

[1] "C'est un fait indubitable que la plupart des anciens philosophes, soit Chaldéens, soit Grecs, nous ont donné les astres comme animés, et ont soutenu que les astres, qui nous éclairent, n'étoient que ou les chars, ou même les navires, des Intelligences qui les conduisoient. Pour les *Chars*, cela se lit partout; on n'a qu'ouvrir Pline, St. Clément," &c. &c.—*Mémoire Historique, sur le Sabiisme*, par M. FOURMONT.

A belief that the stars are either spirits or the vehicles of

They were my heart's first passion — days
And nights, unwearied, in their rays
Have I hung floating, till each sense
Seem'd full of their bright influence.
Innocent joy! alas, how much
Of misery had I shunn'd below,
Could I have still liv'd blest with such;
Nor, proud and restless, burn'd to know
The knowledge that brings guilt and woe.
Often — so much I lov'd to trace
The secrets of this starry race —
Have I at morn and evening run
Along the lines of radiance spun
Like webs, between them and the sun,
Untwisting all the tangled ties
Of light into their different dyes —
Then fleetly wing'd I off, in quest
Of those, the farthest, loneliest,
That watch, like winking sentinels,[1]
The void, beyond which Chaos dwells;
And there, with noiseless plume, pursued
Their track through that grand solitude,
Asking intently all and each
What soul within their radiance dwelt,
And wishing their sweet light were speech,
That they might tell me all they felt.

Nay, oft, so passionate my chase
Of these resplendent heirs of space,
Oft did I follow — lest a ray
Should 'scape me in the farthest night —
Some pilgrim Comet, on his way
To visit distant shrines of light,
And well remember how I sung
Exultingly, when on my sight
New worlds of stars, all fresh and young,
As if just born of darkness, sprung!

Such was my pure ambition then,
My sinless transport, night and morn;
Ere yet this newer world of men,
And that most fair of stars was born
Which I, in fatal hour, saw rise
Among the flow'rs of Paradise!
Thenceforth my nature all was chang'd,
My heart, soul, senses turn'd below;
And he, who but so lately rang'd
Yon wonderful expanse, where glow
Worlds upon worlds, — yet found his mind
Ev'n in that luminous range confin'd, —
Now blest the humblest, meanest sod
Of the dark earth where Woman trod!
In vain my former idols glisten'd
From their far thrones; in vain these ears
To the once-thrilling music listen'd,
That hymn'd around my favourite spheres —
To earth, to earth each thought was giv'n,
That in this half-lost soul had birth;
Like some high mount, whose head's in heav'n,
While its whole shadow rests on earth!

Nor was it Love, ev'n yet, that thrall'd
My spirit in his burning ties;
And less, still less could it be call'd
That grosser flame, round which Love flies
Nearer and nearer, till he dies —
No, it was wonder, such as thrill'd
At all God's works my dazzled sense;
The same rapt wonder, only fill'd
With passion, more profound, intense, —
A vehement, but wand'ring fire,
Which, though nor love, nor yet desire, —
Though through all womankind it took
Its range, as lawless lightnings run,
Yet wanted but a touch, a look,
To fix it burning upon *One*.

Then, too, the ever-restless zeal,
The' insatiate curiosity
To know how shapes, so fair, must feel —
To look, but once, beneath the seal
Of so much loveliness, and see
What souls belong'd to such bright eyes —
Whether, as sun-beams find their way
Into the gem that hidden lies,
Those looks could inward turn their ray,
And make the soul as bright as they:
All this impell'd my anxious chase,
And still the more I saw and knew
Of Woman's fond, weak, conqu'ring race,
The' intenser still my wonder grew.

I had beheld their First, their Eve,
Born in that splendid Paradise,
Which sprung there solely to receive
The first light of her waking eyes.
I had seen purest angels lean
In worship o'er her from above;
And man — oh yes, had envying seen
Proud man possess'd of all her love.

spirits, was common to all the religions and heresies of the East. Kircher has given the names and stations of the seven archangels, who were by the Cabala of the Jews distributed through the planets.

[1] According to the cosmogony of the ancient Persians, there were four stars set as sentinels in the four quarters of the heavens, to watch over the other fixed stars, and superintend the planets in their course. The names of these four sentinel stars are, according to the Boundesh, Taschter, for the east; Satevis, for the west; Venand, for the south; and Haftorang, for the north.

I saw their happiness, so brief,
So exquisite,—her error, too,
That easy trust, that prompt belief
In what the warm heart wishes true;
That faith in words, when kindly said,
By which the whole fond sex is led—
Mingled with—what I durst not blame,
For 'tis my own—that zeal to *know*,
Sad, fatal zeal, so sure of woe;
Which, though from heav'n all pure it came,
Yet stain'd, misus'd, brought sin and shame
On her, on me, on all below!

I had seen this; had seen Man, arm'd,
As his soul is, with strength and sense,
By her first words to ruin charm'd;
His vaunted reason's cold defence,
Like an ice-barrier in the ray
Of melting summer, smil'd away.
Nay, stranger yet, spite of all this—
Though by her counsels taught to err,
Though driv'n from Paradise for her,
(And *with* her—*that*, at least, was bliss,)
Had I not heard him, ere he crost
The threshold of that earthly heav'n,
Which by her wildering smile he lost—
So quickly was the wrong forgiv'n!—
Had I not heard him, as he prest
The frail, fond trembler to a breast
Which she had doom'd to sin and strife,
Call her—ev'n then—his Life! his Life![1]
Yes, such the love-taught name, the first,
That ruin'd Man to Woman gave,
Ev'n in his outcast hour, when curst
By her fond witchery, with that worst
And earliest boon of love, the grave!
She, who brought death into the world,
There stood before him, with the light
Of their lost Paradise still bright
Upon those sunny locks, that curl'd
Down her white shoulders to her feet—
So beautiful in form, so sweet
In heart and voice, as to redeem
The loss, the death of all things dear,
Except herself—and make it seem
Life, endless Life, while she was near!
Could I help wond'ring at a creature,
Thus circled round with spells so strong—
One, to whose ev'ry thought, word, feature,
In joy and woe, through right and wrong,
Such sweet omnipotence heaven gave,
To bless or ruin, curse or save?

[1] Chavah, or, as it is in Arabic, Havah (the name by which Adam called the woman after their transgression), means "Life."

Nor did the marvel cease with her—
New Eves in all her daughters came,
As strong to charm, as weak to err,
As sure of man through praise and blame,
Whate'er they brought him, pride or shame,
He still the' unreasoning worshipper,
And they, throughout all time, the same,
Enchantresses of soul and frame,
Into whose hands, from first to last,
This world with all its destinies,
Devotedly by heav'n seems cast,
To save or ruin, as they please!
Oh, 'tis not to be told how long,
How restlessly I sigh'd to find
Some *one*, from out that witching throng,
Some abstract of the form and mind
Of the whole matchless sex, from which
In my own arms beheld, possest,
I might learn all the pow'rs to witch,
To warm, and (if my fate unblest
Would have it) ruin, of the rest!
Into whose inward soul and sense
I might descend, as doth the bee
Into the flower's deep heart, and thence
Rifle, in all its purity,
The prime, the quintessence, the whole
Of wondrous Woman's frame and soul!

At length, my burning wish, my prayer—
(For such—oh what will tongues not dare,
When hearts go wrong?—this lip preferr'd)—
At length my ominous prayer was heard—
But whether heard in heaven or hell,
Listen—and thou wilt know *too* well.

There was a maid, of all who move
Like visions o'er this orb, most fit
To be a bright young angel's love,
Herself so bright, so exquisite!
The pride, too, of her step, as light
Along the' unconscious earth she went,
Seem'd that of one, born with a right
To walk some heavenlier element,
And tread in places where her feet
A star at ev'ry step should meet.
'Twas not alone that loveliness
By which the wilder'd sense is caught—
Of lips, whose very breath could bless;
Of playful blushes, that seem'd nought
But luminous escapes of thought;
Of eyes that, when by anger stirr'd,
Were fire itself, but, at a word
Of tenderness, all soft became
As though they could, like the sun's bird,
Dissolve away in their own flame—

Of form, as pliant as the shoots
Of a young tree, in vernal flower;
Yet round and glowing as the fruits,
That drop from it in summer's hour;—
'Twas not alone this loveliness
That falls to loveliest women's share,
Though, even here, her form could spare
From its own beauty's rich excess
Enough to make ev'n *them* more fair—
But 'twas the Mind, outshining clear
Through her whole frame—the soul, still near,
To light each charm, yet independent
Of what it lighted, as the sun
That shines on flowers, would be resplendent
Were there no flowers to shine upon—
'Twas this, all this, in one combin'd—
The' unnumber'd looks and arts that form
The glory of young woman-kind,
Taken, in their perfection, warm,
Ere time had chill'd a single charm,
And stamp'd with such a seal of Mind,
As gave to beauties, that might be
Too sensual else, too unrefin'd,
The impress of Divinity!

'Twas this—a union, which the hand
Of Nature kept for her alone,
Of every thing most playful, bland,
Voluptuous, spiritual, grand,
In angel-natures and her own—
Oh this it was that drew me nigh
One, who seem'd kin to heaven as I,
A bright twin-sister from on high—
One, in whose love, I felt, were given
The mix'd delights of either sphere,
All that the spirit seeks in heaven,
And all the senses burn for here.

Had we—but hold—hear every part
Of our sad tale—spite of the pain
Remembrance gives, when the fix'd dart
Is stirr'd thus in the wound again—
Hear every step, so full of bliss,
And yet so ruinous, that led
Down to the last, dark precipice,
Where perish'd both—the fallen, the dead!

From the first hour she caught my sight,
I never left her—day and night
Hovering unseen around her way,
And 'mid her loneliest musings near,
I soon could track each thought that lay,
Gleaming within her heart, as clear
As pebbles within brooks appear;
And there, among the countless things
That keep young hearts for ever glowing,
Vague wishes, fond imaginings,
Love-dreams, as yet no object knowing—
Light, winged hopes, that come when bid,
And rainbow joys that end in weeping;
And passions, among pure thoughts hid,
Like serpents under flowerets sleeping:—
'Mong all these feelings—felt where'er
Young hearts are beating—I saw there
Proud thoughts, aspirings high—beyond
Whate'er yet dwelt in soul so fond—
Glimpses of glory, far away
Into the bright, vague future given;
And fancies, free and grand, whose play,
Like that of eaglets, is near heaven!
With this, too—what a soul and heart
To fall beneath the tempter's art!—
A zeal for knowledge, such as ne'er
Enshrin'd itself in form so fair,
Since that first, fatal hour, when Eve,
With every fruit of Eden blest,
Save one alone—rather than leave
That *one* unreach'd, lost all the rest.

It was in dreams that first I stole
With gentle mastery o'er her mind—
In that rich twilight of the soul,
When reason's beam, half hid behind
The clouds of sleep, obscurely gilds
Each shadowy shape the Fancy builds—
'Twas then, by that soft light, I brought
Vague, glimmering visions to her view;—
Catches of radiance, lost when caught,
Bright labyrinths, that led to nought,
And vistas, with no pathway through;—
Dwellings of bliss, that opening shone,
Then clos'd, dissolv'd, and left no trace—
All that, in short, could tempt Hope on,
But give her wing no resting-place;
Myself the while, with brow, as yet,
Pure as the young moon's coronet,
Through every dream *still* in her sight,
The' enchanter of each mocking scene,
Who gave the hope, then brought the blight,
Who said, 'Behold, yon world of light,'
Then sudden dropt a veil between!

At length, when I perceiv'd each thought,
Waking or sleeping, fix'd on nought
But these illusive scenes, and me—
The phantom, who thus came and went,
In half revealments only meant
To madden curiosity—
When by such various arts I found
Her fancy to its utmost wound,
One night—'twas in a holy spot,
Which she for prayer had chosen—a grot

Of purest marble, built below
Her garden beds, through which a glow
From lamps invisible then stole,
Brightly pervading all the place—
Like that mysterious light the soul,
Itself unseen, sheds through the face.
There, at her altar, while she knelt,
And all that woman ever felt,
When God and man both claim'd her sighs—
Every warm thought, that ever dwelt,
Like summer clouds, 'twixt earth and skies,
Too pure to fall, too gross to rise,
Spoke in her gestures, tones, and eyes—
Then, as the mystic light's soft ray
Grew softer still, as though its ray
Was breath'd from her, I heard her say:—

'Oh idol of my dreams! whate'er
'Thy nature be—human, divine,
'Or but half heav'nly—still too fair,
'Too heavenly to be ever mine!

'Wonderful Spirit, who dost make
'Slumber so lovely that it seems
'No longer life to live awake,
'Since heaven itself descends in dreams,

'Why do I ever lose thee? why
'When on thy realms and thee I gaze
'Still drops that veil, which I could die,
'Oh gladly, but one hour to raise?

'Long ere such miracles as thou
'And thine came o'er my thoughts, a thirst
'For light was in this soul, which now
'Thy looks have into passion nurs'd.

'There's nothing bright above, below,
'In sky—earth—ocean, that this breast
'Doth not intensely burn to know,
'And thee, thee, thee, o'er all the rest!

'Then come, oh Spirit, from behind
'The curtains of thy radiant home,
'If thou wouldst be as angel shrin'd,
'Or lov'd and clasp'd as mortal, come!

'Bring all thy dazzling wonders here,
'That I may, waking, know and see;
'Or waft me hence to thy own sphere,
'Thy heaven or—ay, even *that* with thee!

'Demon or God, who hold'st the book
'Of knowledge spread beneath thine eye,
'Give me, with thee, but one bright look
'Into its leaves, and let me die!

'By those ethereal wings, whose way
'Lies through an element, so fraught
'With living Mind, that, as they play,
'Their every movement is a thought!

'By that bright, wreathed hair, between
'Whose sunny clusters the sweet wind
'Of Paradise so late hath been,
'And left its fragrant soul behind!

'By those impassion'd eyes, that melt
'Their light into the inmost heart;
'Like sunset in the waters, felt
'As molten fire through every part—

'I do implore thee, oh most bright
'And worshipp'd Spirit, shine but o'er
'My waking, wondering eyes this night,
'This one blest night—I ask no more!'

Exhausted, breathless, as she said
These burning words, her languid head
Upon the altar's steps she cast,
As if that brain-throb were its last—

Till, startled by the breathing, nigh,
Of lips, that echoed back her sigh,
Sudden her brow again she rais'd;
And there, just lighted on the shrine,
Beheld me—not as I had blaz'd
Around her, full of light divine,
In her late dreams, but soften'd down
Into more mortal grace;—my crown
Of flowers, too radiant for this world,
Left hanging on yon starry steep;
My wings shut up, like banners furl'd,
When Peace hath put their pomp to sleep;
Or like autumnal clouds, that keep
Their lightnings sheath'd, rather than mar
The dawning hour of some young star;
And nothing left, but what beseem'd
The' accessible, though glorious mate
Of mortal woman—whose eyes beam'd
Back upon hers, as passionate;
Whose ready heart brought flame for flame,
Whose sin, whose madness was the same;
And whose soul lost, in that one hour,
For her and for her love—oh more
Of heaven's light than ev'n the power
Of heav'n itself could now restore!

And yet, that hour!"———

The Spirit here
Stopp'd in his utterance, as if words
Gave way beneath the wild career
Of his then rushing thoughts—like chords,

Midway in some enthusiast's song,
Breaking beneath a touch too strong;
While the clench'd hand upon the brow
Told how remembrance throbb'd there now!
But soon 'twas o'er — that casual blaze
From the sunk fire of other days —
That relic of a flame, whose burning
Had been too fierce to be relum'd
Soon pass'd away, and the youth, turning
To his bright listeners, thus resum'd: —

" Days, months elaps'd, and, though what most
On earth I sigh'd for was mine, all —
Yet — was I happy? God, thou know'st,
Howe'er they smile, and feign, and boast,
What happiness is theirs, who fall!
'Twas bitterest anguish — made more keen
Ev'n by the love, the bliss, between
Whose throbs it came, like gleams of hell
In agonizing cross-light given
Athwart the glimpses, they who dwell
In purgatory[1] catch of heaven!
The only feeling that to me
Seem'd joy — or rather my sole rest
From aching misery — was to see
My young, proud, blooming Lilis blest.
She, the fair fountain of all ill
To my lost soul — whom yet its thirst
Fervidly panted after still,
And found the charm fresh as at first —
To see *her* happy — to reflect
Whatever beams still round me play'd
Of former pride, of glory wreck'd,
On her, my Moon, whose light I made,
And whose soul worshipp'd even my shade —
This was, I own, enjoyment — this
My sole, last lingering glimpse of bliss.
And proud she was, fair creature! — proud,
Beyond what ev'n most queenly stirs
In woman's heart, nor would have bow'd
That beautiful young brow of hers
To aught beneath the First above,
So high she deem'd her Cherub's love!

Then, too, that passion, hourly growing
Stronger and stronger — to which even
Her love, at times, gave way — of knowing
Every thing strange in earth and heaven;
Not only all that, full reveal'd,
The' eternal Alla loves to show,
But all that He hath wisely seal'd
In darkness, for man *not* to know —
Ev'n this desire, alas, ill-starr'd
And fatal as it was, I sought
To feed each minute, and unbarr'd
Such realms of wonder on her thought,
As ne'er, till then, had let their light
Escape on any mortal's sight!
In the deep earth — beneath the sea —
Through caves of fire — through wilds of air —
Wherever sleeping Mystery
Had spread her curtain, we were there —
Love still beside us, as we went,
At home in each new element,
And sure of worship every where!

Then first was Nature taught to lay
The wealth of all her kingdoms down
At woman's worshipp'd feet, and say,
'Bright creature, this is all thine own!'
Then first were diamonds, from the night,[2]
Of earth's deep centre brought to light,
And made to grace the conquering way
Of proud young beauty with their ray.

Then, too, the pearl from out its shell
Unsightly, in the sunless sea,
(As 'twere a spirit, forc'd to dwell
In form unlovely) was set free,
And round the neck of woman threw
A light it lent and borrow'd too.
For never did this maid — whate'er
The' ambition of the hour — forget
Her sex's pride in being fair;
Nor that adornment, tasteful, rare,
Which makes the mighty magnet, set
In Woman's form, more mighty yet.
Nor was there aught within the range
Of my swift wing in sea or air,
Of beautiful, or grand, or strange,
That, quickly as her wish could change,
I did not seek, with such fond care,

[1] Called by the Mussulmans Al Araf — a sort of wall or partition which, according to the 7th chapter of the Koran, separates hell from paradise, and where they, who have not merits sufficient to gain them immediate admittance into heaven, are supposed to stand for a certain period, alternately tantalized and tormented by the sights that are on either side presented to them.

Manes, who borrowed in many instances from the Platonists, placed his purgatories, or places of purification, in the Sun and Moon. — *Beausobre*, liv. iii. chap. 8.

[2] " Quelques gnomes désireux de devenir immortels, avoient voulu gagner les bonnes graces des nos filles, et leur avoient apporté des pierreries dont ils sont gardiens naturels: et ces auteurs ont cru, s'appuyans sur le livre d'Enoch mal-entendu, que c'étoient des pièges que les anges amoureux," &c. &c. — *Comte de Gabalis*.

As the fiction of the loves of angels with women gave birth to the fanciful world of sylphs and gnomes, so we owe to it also the invention of those beautiful Genii and Peris, which embellish so much the mythology of the East; for in the fabulous histories of Caïoumarath, of Thamurath, &c., these spiritual creatures are always represented as the descendants of Seth, and called the Bani Alginn, or children of Giann.

That when I've seen her look above
At some bright star admiringly,
I've said, 'Nay, look not there, my love,[1]
'Alas, I *cannot* give it thee!'

But not alone the wonders found
Through Nature's realm—the' unveil'd, material,
Visible glories, that abound,
Through all her vast, enchanted ground—
But whatsoe'er unseen, ethereal,
Dwells far away from human sense,
Wrapp'd in its own intelligence—
The mystery of that Fountain-head,
From which all vital spirit runs,
All breath of Life, where'er 'tis spread
Through men or angels, flowers or suns—
The workings of the' Almighty Mind,
When first o'er Chaos he design'd
The outlines of this world; and through
That depth of darkness—like the bow,
Call'd out of rain-clouds, hue by hue—[2]
Saw the grand, gradual picture grow;—
The covenant with human kind
By ALLA made[3]—the chains of Fate
He round himself and them hath twin'd,
Till his high task he consummate;—
Till good from evil, love from hate,
Shall be work'd out through sin and pain,
And Fate shall loose her iron chain,
And all be free, be bright again!

Such were the deep-drawn mysteries,
And some, ev'n more obscure, profound,
And wildering to the mind than these,
Which—far as woman's thought could sound,
Or a fall'n, outlaw'd spirit reach—
She dar'd to learn, and I to teach.
Till—fill'd with such unearthly lore,
And mingling the pure light it brings
With much that fancy had, before,
Shed in false, tinted glimmerings—
The' enthusiast girl spoke out, as one
Inspir'd, among her own dark race,
Who from their ancient shrines would run,
Leaving their holy rites undone,
To gaze upon her holier face.
And, though but wild the things she spoke,
Yet, 'mid that play of error's smoke
Into fair shapes by fancy curl'd,
Some gleams of pure religion broke—
Glimpses, that have not yet awoke,
But startled the still dreaming world!
Oh, many a truth, remote, sublime,
Which Heav'n would from the minds of men
Have kept conceal'd, till its own time,
Stole out in these revealments then—
Revealments dim, that have fore-run,
By ages, the great, Sealing One![4]
Like that imperfect dawn, or light[5]
Escaping from the Zodiac's signs,
Which makes the doubtful east half bright,
Before the real morning shines!

Thus did some moons of bliss go by—
Of bliss to her, who saw but love
And knowledge throughout earth and sky;
To whose enamour'd soul and eye,
I seem'd—as is the sun on high—
The light of all below, above,
The spirit of sea, and land, and air,
Whose influence, felt every where,
Spread from its centre, her own heart,
Ev'n to the world's extremest part;
While through that world her reinless mind
Had now career'd so fast and far,
That earth itself seem'd left behind,
And her proud fancy, unconfin'd,
Already saw Heaven's gates ajar!

Happy enthusiast! still, oh, still
Spite of my own heart's mortal chill,
Spite of that double-fronted sorrow,
Which looks at once before and back,
Beholds the yesterday, the morrow,
And sees both comfortless, both black—
Spite of all this, I could have still
In her delight forgot all ill;
Or, if pain *would* not be forgot,
At least have borne and murmur'd not.
When thoughts of an offended heaven,
Of sinfulness, which I – ev'n I,
While down its steep most headlong driven—
Well knew could never be forgiven,
Came o'er me with an agony
Beyond all reach of mortal woe—
A torture kept for those who know,
Know *every* thing, and—worst of all—
Know and love Virtue while they fall!

[1] I am aware that this happy saying of Lord Albemarle's loses much of its grace and playfulness, by being put into the mouth of any but a human lover.

[2] According to Whitehurst's theory, the mention of rainbows by an antediluvian angel is an anachronism; as he says, "There was no rain before the flood, and consequently no rainbow, which accounts for the novelty of this sight after the Deluge."

[3] For the terms of this compact, of which the angels were supposed to be witnesses, see the chapter of the Koran, entitled Al Araf, and the article "Adam" in D'Herbelot.

[4] In acknowledging the authority of the great Prophets who had preceded him, Mahomet represented his own mission as the final "*Seal*," or consummation of them all.

[5] The Zodiacal Light.

Even then, her presence had the power
To soothe, to warm—nay, even to bless—
If ever bliss could graft its flower,
On stem so full of bitterness—
Even then her glorious smile to me
Brought warmth and radiance, if not balm;
Like moonlight o'er a troubled sea,
Brightening the storm it cannot calm.

Oft, too, when that disheartening fear,
Which all who love, beneath yon sky,
Feel, when they gaze on what is dear—
The dreadful thought that it must die!
That desolating thought, which comes
Into men's happiest hours and homes;
Whose melancholy boding flings
Death's shadow o'er the brightest things,
Sicklies the infant's bloom, and spreads
The grave beneath young lovers' heads!
This fear, so sad to all—to me
Most full of sadness, from the thought
That I must still live on[1], when she
Would, like the snow that on the sea
Fell yesterday, in vain be sought;
That heaven to me this final seal
Of all earth's sorrow would deny,
And I eternally must feel
The death-pang, without power to die!
Ev'n this, her fond endearments—fond
As ever cherish'd the sweet bond
'Twixt heart and heart—could charm away;
Before her look no clouds would stay,
Or, if they did, their gloom was gone,
Their darkness put a glory on!
But 'tis not, 'tis not for the wrong,
The guilty, to be happy long;
And she, too, now, had sunk within
The shadow of her tempter's sin,
Too deep for ev'n Omnipotence
To snatch the fated victim thence!

Listen, and, if a tear there be
Left in your hearts, weep it for me.

'Twas on the evening of a day,
Which we in love had dreamt away;
In that same garden, where—the pride
Of seraph splendour laid aside,
And those wings furl'd, whose open light
For mortal gaze were else too bright—
I first had stood before her sight,
And found myself—oh, ecstasy,
Which even in pain I ne'er forget—
Worshipp'd as only God should be,
And lov'd as never man was yet!
In that same garden were we now,
Thoughtfully side by side reclining,
Her eyes turn'd upward, and her brow
With its own silent fancies shining.

It was an evening bright and still
As ever blush'd on wave or bower,
Smiling from heaven, as if nought ill
Could happen in so sweet an hour.
Yet, I remember, both grew sad
In looking at that light—even she,
Of heart so fresh, and brow so glad,
Felt the still hour's solemnity,
And thought she saw, in that repose,
The death-hour not alone of light,
But of this whole fair world—the close
Of all things beautiful and bright—
The last, grand sunset, in whose ray
Nature herself died calm away!

At length, as though some livelier thought
Had suddenly her fancy caught,
She turn'd upon me her dark eyes,
Dilated into that full shape
They took in joy, reproach, surprise,
As 'twere to let more soul escape,
And, playfully as on my head
Her white hand rested, smil'd and said:—

'I had, last night, a dream of thee,
'Resembling those divine ones, given,
'Like preludes to sweet minstrelsy,
'Before thou cam'st, thyself from heaven.

'The same rich wreath was on thy brow,
'Dazzling as if of starlight made;
'And these wings, lying darkly now,
'Like meteors round thee flash'd and play'd.

'Thou stood'st all bright, as in those dreams,
'As if just wafted from above;
'Mingling earth's warmth with heaven's beams,
'A creature to adore and love.

'Sudden I felt thee draw me near
'To thy pure heart, where, fondly plac'd,
'I seem'd within the atmosphere
'Of that exhaling light embrac'd;

'And felt, methought, the' ethereal flame
'Pass from thy purer soul to mine;

[1] Pococke, however, gives it as the opinion of the Mahometan doctors, that all souls, not only of men and of animals, living either on land or in the sea, but of the angels also, must necessarily taste of death.

'Till—oh, too blissful—I became,
'Like thee, all spirit, all divine!

'Say, why did dream so blest come o'er me,
'If, now I wake, 'tis faded, gone?
'When will my Cherub shine before me
'Thus radiant, as in heaven he shone?

'When shall I, waking, be allow'd
'To gaze upon those perfect charms,
'And clasp thee once, without a cloud,
'A chill of earth, within these arms?

'Oh what a pride to say, this, this
'Is my own Angel—all divine,
'And pure, and dazzling as he is,
'And fresh from heaven—he's mine, he's mine!

'Think'st thou, were LILIS in thy place,
'A creature of yon lofty skies,
'She would have hid one single grace,
'One glory from her lover's eyes?

'No, no—then, if thou lov'st like me,
'Shine out, young Spirit, in the blaze
'Of thy most proud divinity,
'Nor think thou'lt wound this mortal gaze.

'Too long and oft I've look'd upon
'Those ardent eyes, intense ev'n thus—
'Too near the stars themselves have gone,
'To fear aught grand or luminous.

'Then doubt me not—oh, who can say
'But that this dream may yet come true,
'And my blest spirit drink thy ray,
'Till it becomes all heavenly too?

'Let me this once but feel the flame
'Of those spread wings, the very pride
'Will change my nature, and this frame
'By the mere touch be deified!'

Thus spoke the maid, as one, not us'd
To be by earth or heaven refus'd—
As one, who knew her influence o'er
All creatures, whatsoe'er they were,
And, though to heaven she could not soar,
At least would bring down heaven to her.

Little did she, alas, or I—
Even I, whose soul, but half-way yet
Immerg'd in sin's obscurity
Was as the earth whereon we lie,
O'er half whose disk the sun is set—
Little did we foresee the fate,
The dreadful—how can it be told?
Such pain, such anguish to relate
Is o'er again to feel, behold!
But, charg'd as 'tis, my heart must speak
Its sorrow out, or it will break!
Some dark misgivings *had*, I own,
Pass'd for a moment through my breast—
Fears of some danger, vague, unknown,
To one, or both—something unblest
To happen from this proud request.
But soon these boding fancies fled;
Nor saw I aught that could forbid
My full revealment, save the dread
Of that first dazzle, when, unhid,
Such light should burst upon a lid
Ne'er tried in heaven;—and even this glare
She might, by love's own nursing care,
Be, like young eagles, taught to bear.
For well I knew, the lustre shed
From cherub wings, when proudliest spread,
Was, in its nature, lambent, pure,
And innocent as is the light
The glow-worm hangs out to allure
Her mate to her green bower at night.
Oft had I, in the mid-air, swept
Through clouds in which the lightning slept,
As in its lair, ready to spring,
Yet wak'd it not—though from my wing
A thousand sparks fell glittering!
Oft too when round me from above
The feather'd snow, in all its whiteness,
Fell, like the moultings of heaven's Dove,—[1]
So harmless, though so full of brightness,
Was my brow's wreath, that it would shake
From off its flowers each downy flake
As delicate, unmelted, fair,
And cool as they had lighted there.

Nay ev'n with LILIS—had I not
Around her sleep all radiant beam'd,
Hung o'er her slumbers, nor forgot
To kiss her eye-lids, as she dream'd?

[1] The Dove, or pigeon which attended Mahomet as his Familiar, and was frequently seen to whisper into his ear, was, if I recollect right, one of that select number of animals (including also the ant of Solomon, the dog of the Seven Sleepers, &c.) which were thought by the Prophet worthy of admission into Paradise.

"The Moslems have a tradition that Mahomet was saved (when he hid himself in a cave in Mount Shur) by his pursuers finding the mouth of the cave covered by a spider's web, and a nest built by two pigeons at the entrance, with two eggs unbroken in it, which made them think no one could have entered it. In consequence of this, they say, Mahomet enjoined his followers to look upon pigeons as sacred, and never to kill a spider."—*Modern Universal History*, vol. i.

And yet, at morn, from that repose,
Had she not wak'd, unscath'd and bright,
As doth the pure, unconscious rose,
Though by the fire-fly kiss'd all night?

Thus having—as, alas, deceiv'd
By my sin's blindness, I believ'd—
No cause for dread, and those dark eyes
Now fix'd upon me, eagerly
As though the' unlocking of the skies
Then waited but a sign from me—
How could I pause? how ev'n let fall
A word, a whisper that could stir
In her proud heart a doubt, that all
I brought from heaven belong'd to her.
Slow from her side I rose, while she
Arose, too, mutely, tremblingly,
But not with fear—all hope, and pride,
She waited for the awful boon,
Like priestesses, at eventide,
Watching the rise of the full moon,
Whose light, when once its orb hath shone,
'Twill madden them to look upon!

Of all my glories, the bright crown,
Which, when I last from heaven came down,
Was left behind me, in yon star
That shines from out those clouds afar,—
Where, relic sad, 'tis treasur'd yet,
The downfallen angel's coronet!—
Of all my glories, this alone
Was wanting:—but the' illumin'd brow,
The sun-bright locks, the eyes that now
Had love's spell added to their own,
And pour'd a light till then unknown;—
The' unfolded wings, that, in their play,
Shed sparkles bright as ALLA's throne;
All I could bring of heaven's array,
Of that rich panoply of charms
A Cherub moves in, on the day
Of his best pomp, I now put on;
And, proud that in her eyes I shone
Thus glorious, glided to her arms;
Which still (though, at a sight so splendid,
Her dazzled brow had, instantly,
Sunk on her breast,) were wide extended
To clasp the form she durst not see![1]
Great Heaven! how *could* thy vengeance light
So bitterly on one so bright?
How could the hand, that gave such charms,
Blast them again, in love's own arms?
Scarce had I touch'd her shrinking frame
When—oh most horrible!—I felt
That every spark of that pure flame—
Pure, while among the stars I dwelt—
Was now, by my transgression, turn'd
Into gross, earthly fire, which burn'd,
Burn'd all it touch'd, as fast as eye
Could follow the fierce, ravening flashes;
Till there—oh God, I still ask why
Such doom was hers?—I saw her lie
Blackening within my arms to ashes!
That brow, a glory but to see—
Those lips, whose touch was what the first
Fresh cup of immortality
Is to a new-made angel's thirst!
Those clasping arms, within whose round—
My heart's horizon—the whole bound
Of its hope, prospect, heaven was found!
Which, even in this dread moment, fond
As when they first were round me cast,
Loos'd not in death the fatal bond,
But, burning, held me to the last!
All, all, that, but that morn, had seem'd
As if Love's self there breath'd and beam'd,
Now, parch'd and black, before me lay,
Withering in agony away;
And mine, oh misery! mine the flame,
From which this desolation came;—
I, the curst spirit, whose caress
Had blasted all that loveliness!

'Twas maddening!—but now hear even worse—
Had death, death only, been the curse
I brought upon her—had the doom
But ended here, when her young bloom
Lay in the dust—and did the spirit
No part of that fell curse inherit,
'Twere not so dreadful—but, come near—
Too shocking 'tis for earth to hear—
Just when her eyes, in fading, took
Their last, keen, agoniz'd farewell,
And look'd in mine with—oh, that look!
Great vengeful Power, whate'er the hell
Thou mayst to human souls assign,
The memory of that look is mine!—

In her last struggle, on my brow
Her ashy lips a kiss imprest,
So withering!—I feel it now—
'Twas fire—but fire, ev'n more unblest
Than was my own, and like that flame,
The angels shudder but to name,
Hell's everlasting element!
Deep, deep it pierc'd into my brain,
Madd'ning and torturing as it went;
And here—mark here, the brand, the stain
It left upon my front—burnt in
By that last kiss of love and sin—

[1] "Mohammed (says Sale), though a prophet, was not able to bear the sight of Gabriel, when he appeared in his proper form, much less would others be able to support it."

A brand, which all the pomp and pride
Of a fallen Spirit cannot hide !

But is it thus, dread Providence—
Can it, indeed, be thus, that she,
Who, (but for *one* proud, fond offence,)
Had honour'd heaven itself, should be
Now doom'd—I cannot speak it—no,
Merciful ALLA ! *'tis* not so—
Never could lips divine have said
The fiat of a fate so dread.
And yet, that look—so deeply fraught
With more than anguish, with despair—
That new, fierce fire, resembling nought
In heaven or earth—this scorch I bear!—
Oh—for the first time that these knees
Have bent before thee since my fall,
Great Power, if ever thy decrees
Thou couldst for prayer like mine recall,
Pardon that spirit, and on me,
On me, who taught her pride to err,
Shed out each drop of agony
Thy burning phial keeps for her !
See, too, where low beside me kneel
Two other outcasts, who, though gone
And lost themselves, yet dare to feel
And pray for that poor mortal one.
Alas, too well, too well they know
The pain, the penitence, the woe
That Passion brings upon the best,
The wisest, and the loveliest.—
Oh, who is to be sav'd, if such
Bright, erring souls are not forgiven ;
So loth they wander, and so much
Their very wand'rings lean towards heaven !
Again, I cry, Just Power, transfer
That creature's sufferings all to me—
Mine, mine the guilt, the torment be,
To save one minute's pain to her,
Let mine last all eternity !"

He paus'd, and to the earth bent down
His throbbing head ; while they, who felt
That agony as 'twere their own,
Those angel youths, beside him knelt,
And, in the night's still silence there,
While mournfully each wand'ring air
Play'd in those plumes, that never more
To their lost home in heaven must soar,
Breath'd inwardly the voiceless prayer,
Unheard by all but Mercy's ear—
And which if Mercy *did not* hear,
Oh, God would *not* be what this bright
And glorious universe of His,
This world of beauty, goodness, light,
And endless love, proclaims He *is!*

Not long they knelt, when, from a wood
That crown'd that airy solitude,
They heard a low, uncertain sound,
As from a lute, that just had found
Some happy theme, and murmur'd round
The new-born fancy, with fond tone,
Scarce thinking aught so sweet its own !
Till soon a voice, that match'd as well
That gentle instrument, as suits
The sea-air to an ocean-shell
(So kin its spirit to the lute's),
Tremblingly follow'd the soft strain,
Interpreting its joy, its pain,
And lending the light wings of words
To many a thought, that else had lain
Unfledg'd and mute among the chords.

All started at the sound—but chief
The third young Angel, in whose face,
Though faded like the others, grief
Had left a gentler, holier trace ;
As if, even yet, through pain and ill,
Hope had not fled him—as if still
Her precious pearl, in sorrow's cup,
Unmelted at the bottom lay,
To shine again, when, all drunk up,
The bitterness should pass away.
Chiefly did he, though in his eyes
There shone more pleasure than surprise,
Turn to the wood, from whence that sound
Of solitary sweetness broke ;
Then, listening, look delighted round
To his bright peers, while thus it spoke :—
" Come, pray with me, my seraph love,
" My angel-lord, come pray with me ;
" In vain to-night my lip hath strove
" To send one holy prayer above—
" The knee may bend, the lip may move,
" But pray I cannot, without thee !
" I've fed the altar in my bower
" With droppings from the incense tree ;
" I've shelter'd it from wind and shower,
" But dim it burns the livelong hour,
" As if, like me, it had no power
" Of life or lustre, without thee !

" A boat at midnight sent alone
" To drift upon the moonless sea,
" A lute, whose leading chord is gone,
" A wounded bird, that hath but one
" Imperfect wing to soar upon,
" Are like what I am, without thee !

" Then ne'er, my spirit-love, divide,
" In life or death, thyself from me ;

" But when again, in sunny pride,
" Thou walk'st through Eden, let me glide,
" A prostrate shadow, by thy side—
" Oh happier thus than without thee!"

The song had ceas'd, when, from the wood
Which, sweeping down that airy height,
Reach'd the lone spot whereon they stood—
There suddenly shone out a light
From a clear lamp, which, as it blaz'd
Across the brow of one, who rais'd
Its flame aloft (as if to throw
The light upon that group below),
Display'd two eyes, sparkling between
The dusky leaves, such as are seen
By fancy only, in those faces,
That haunt a poet's walk at even,
Looking from out their leafy places
Upon his dreams of love and heaven.
'Twas but a moment—the blush, brought
O'er all her features at the thought
Of being seen thus, late, alone,
By any but the eyes she sought,
Had scarcely for an instant shone
Through the dark leaves, when she was gone—
Gone, like a meteor that o'erhead
Suddenly shines, and, ere we've said,
" Behold, how beautiful!"—'tis fled.

Yet, ere she went, the words, " I come,
" I come, my NAMA," reach'd her ear,
In that kind voice, familiar, dear,
Which tells of confidence, of home,—
Of habit, that hath drawn hearts near,
Till they grow *one*,—of faith sincere,
And all that Love most loves to hear;
A music, breathing of the past,
The present, and the time to be,
Where Hope and Memory, to the last,
Lengthen out life's true harmony!

Nor long did he, whom call so kind
Summon'd away, remain behind;
Nor did there need much time to tell
What they—alas, more fall'n than he
From happiness and heaven—knew well,
His gentler love's short history!

Thus did it run—*not* as he told
The tale himself, but as 'tis grav'd
Upon the tablets that, of old,
By SETH[1] were from the deluge sav'd,
All written over with sublime
And sadd'ning legends of the' unblest,
But glorious Spirits of that time,
And this young Angel's 'mong the rest.

THIRD ANGEL'S STORY.

AMONG the Spirits, of pure flame,
That in the' eternal heavens abide—
Circles of light, that from the same
Unclouded centre sweeping wide,
Carry its beams on every side—
Like spheres of air that waft around
The undulations of rich sound,
Till the far-circling radiance be
Diffus'd into infinity!
First and immediate near the Throne
Of ALLA[2], as if most his own,
The Seraphs stand[3]—this burning sign
Trac'd on their banner, " Love divine!"
Their rank, their honours, far above
Ev'n those to high-brow'd Cherubs given,
Though knowing all;—so much doth love
Transcend all Knowledge, ev'n in heaven!

[1] Seth is a favourite personage among the Orientals, and acts a conspicuous part in many of their most extravagant romances. The Syrians pretended to have a Testament of this Patriarch in their possession, in which was explained the whole theology of angels, their different orders, &c. &c. The Curds, too (as Hyde mentions in his Appendix), have a book, which contains all the rites of their religion, and which they call Sohuph Sheit, or the Book of Seth.

In the same manner that Seth and Cham are supposed to have preserved these memorials of antediluvian knowledge, Xixuthrus is said in Chaldæan fable to have deposited in Siparis, the city of the Sun, those monuments of science which he had saved out of the waters of a deluge.—See Jablonski's learned remarks upon these columns or tablets of Seth, which he supposes to be the same with the pillars of Mercury, or the Egyptian Thoth.—*Pantheon. Egypt.* lib. v. cap. 5.

[2] The Mussulmans, says D'Herbelot, apply the general name, Mocarreboun, to all those Spirits "qui approchent le plus près le Trône." Of this number are Mikail and Gebrail.

[3] The Seraphim, or Spirits of Divine Love.

There appears to be, among writers on the East, as well as among the Orientals themselves, considerable indecision with regard to the respective claims of Seraphim and Cherubim to the highest rank in the celestial hierarchy. The derivation which Hyde assigns to the word *Cherub* seems to determine the precedence in favour of that order of spirits:—" Cherubim, *i. e.* Propinqui Angeli, qui sc. Deo proprius quam alii accedunt; nam *Charab* est *i. q. Karab*, appropinquare." (P. 263.) Al Beidawi, too, one of the commentators of the Koran, on that passage, " the angels, who bear the throne, and those who stand about it," (chap. xl.) says, " These are the Cherubim, the highest order of angels." On the other hand, we have seen, in a preceding note, that the Syrians place the sphere in which the Seraphs dwell at the very summit of all the celestial systems; and even, among Mahometans, the word Azazil and Mocarreboun (which mean the spirits that stand nearest to the throne of Alla) are indiscriminately applied to both Seraphim and Cherubim.

'Mong these was ZARAPH once — and none
E'er felt affection's holy fire,
Or yearn'd towards the' Eternal One,
With half such longing, deep desire.
Love was to his impassion'd soul
Not, as with others, a mere part
Of its existence, but the whole —
The very life-breath of his heart!
Oft, when from ALLA's lifted brow
A lustre came, too bright to bear,
And all the seraph ranks would bow,
To shade their dazzled sight, nor dare
To look upon the' effulgence there —
This Spirit's eyes would court the blaze
(Such pride he in adoring took),
And rather lose, in that one gaze,
The power of looking, than *not* look!
Then, too, when angel voices sung
The mercy of their God, and strung
Their harps to hail, with welcome sweet,
That moment, watch'd for by all eyes,
When some repentant sinner's feet
First touch'd the threshold of the skies,
Oh then how clearly did the voice
Of ZARAPH above all rejoice!
Love was in ev'ry buoyant tone —
Such love, as only could belong
To the blest angels, and alone
Could, ev'n from angels, bring such song!

Alas, that it should e'er have been
In heav'n as 'tis too often here,
Where nothing fond or bright is seen,
But it hath pain and peril near; —
Where right and wrong so close resemble,
That what we take for virtue's thrill
Is often the first downward tremble
Of the heart's balance unto ill;
Where Love hath not a shrine so pure,
So holy, but the serpent, Sin,
In moments, ev'n the most secure,
Beneath his altar may glide in!

So was it with that Angel — such
The charm, that slop'd his fall along,
From good to ill, from loving much,
Too easy lapse, to loving wrong. —
Ev'n so that amorous Spirit, bound
By beauty's spell, where'er 'twas found,
From the bright things above the moon
Down to earth's beaming eyes descended,
Till love for the Creator soon
In passion for the creature ended.

'Twas first at twilight, on the shore
Of the smooth sea, he heard the lute
And voice of her he lov'd steal o'er
The silver waters, that lay mute,
As loth, by even a breath, to stay
The pilgrimage of that sweet lay,
Whose echoes still went on and on,
Till lost among the light that shone
Far off, beyond the ocean's brim —
There, where the rich cascade of day
Had, o'er the' horizon's golden rim,
Into Elysium roll'd away!
Of God she sung, and of the mild
Attendant Mercy, that beside
His awful throne for ever smil'd,
Ready, with her white hand, to guide
His bolts of vengeance to their prey —
That she might quench them on the way!
Of Peace — of that Atoning Love,
Upon whose star, shining above
This twilight world of hope and fear,
The weeping eyes of Faith are fix'd
So fond, that with her every tear
The light of that love-star is mix'd! —
All this she sung, and such a soul
Of piety was in that song,
That the charm'd Angel, as it stole
Tenderly to his ear, along
Those lulling waters where he lay,
Watching the daylight's dying ray,
Thought 'twas a voice from out the wave,
An echo, that some sea-nymph gave
To Eden's distant harmony,
Heard faint and sweet beneath the sea!

Quickly, however, to its source,
Tracing that music's melting course,
He saw, upon the golden sand
Of the sea-shore, a maiden stand,
Before whose feet the' expiring waves
Flung their last offering with a sigh —
As, in the East, exhausted slaves
Lay down the far-brought gift, and die —
And, while her lute hung by her, hush'd,
As if unequal to the tide
Of song, that from her lips still gush'd,
She rais'd, like one beatified,
Those eyes, whose light seem'd rather given
To be ador'd than to adore —
Such eyes, as may have look'd *from* heaven,
But ne'er were rais'd to it before?

Oh Love, Religion, Music[1] — all
That's left of Eden upon earth —

[1] "Les Egyptiens disent que la Musique est *Sœur de la Religion*." — *Voyages de Pythagore*, tom. i. p. 422.

The only blessings, since the fall
Of our weak souls, that still recall
A trace of their high, glorious birth—
How kindred are the dreams you bring!
How Love, though unto earth so prone,
Delights to take religion's wing,
When time or grief hath stain'd his own!
How near to Love's beguiling brink,
Too oft, entranc'd Religion lies!
While Music, Music is the link
They *both* still hold by to the skies,
The language of their native sphere,
Which they had else forgotten here.

How then could ZARAPH fail to feel
That moment's witcheries?—one, so fair,
Breathing out music, that might steal
Heaven from itself, and rapt in prayer
That seraphs might be proud to share!
Oh, he *did* feel it, all too well—
With warmth, that far too dearly cost—
Nor knew he, when at last he fell,
To which attraction, to which spell,
Love, Music, or Devotion, most
His soul in that sweet hour was lost.

Sweet was the hour, though dearly won,
And pure, as aught of earth could be,
For then first did the glorious sun
Before religion's altar see
Two hearts in wedlock's golden tie
Self-pledg'd, in love to live and die.
Blest union! by that Angel wove,
And worthy from such hands to come;
Safe, sole asylum, in which Love,
When fall'n or exil'd from above,
In this dark world can find a home.

And, though the Spirit had transgress'd,
Had, from his station 'mong the blest
Won down by woman's smile, allow'd
Terrestrial passion to breathe o'er
The mirror of his heart, and cloud
God's image, there so bright before—
Yet never did that Power look down
On error with a brow so mild;
Never did Justice wear a frown,
Through which so gently Mercy smil'd.
For humble was their love—with awe
And trembling like some treasure kept,
That was not theirs by holy law—
Whose beauty with remorse they saw,
And o'er whose preciousness they wept.
Humility, that low, sweet root,
From which all heavenly virtues shoot,
Was in the hearts of both—but most
In NAMA's heart, by whom alone
Those charms for which a heaven was lost,
Seem'd all unvalued and unknown;
And when her seraph's eyes she caught,
And hid hers glowing on his breast,
Even bliss was humbled by the thought—
"What claim have I to be so blest?"
Still less could maid, so meek, have nurs'd
Desire of knowledge—that vain thirst,
With which the sex hath all been curs'd,
From luckless EVE to her, who near
The Tabernacle stole to hear
The secrets of the angels[1]: no—
To love as her own Seraph lov'd,
With Faith, the same through bliss and woe—
Faith, that, were even its light remov'd,
Could, like the dial, fix'd remain,
And wait till it shone out again;—
With Patience that, though often bow'd
By the rude storm, can rise anew;
And Hope that, even from Evil's cloud,
Sees sunny Good half breaking through!
This deep, relying Love, worth more
In heaven than all a Cherub's lore—
This Faith, more sure than aught beside,
Was the sole joy, ambition, pride
Of her fond heart—the' unreasoning scope
Of all its views, above, below—
So true she felt it that to *hope*,
To *trust*, is happier than to *know*.
And thus in humbleness they trod,
Abash'd, but pure before their God;
Nor e'er did earth behold a sight
So meekly beautiful as they,
When, with the altar's holy light
Full on their brows, they knelt to pray,
Hand within hand, and side by side,
Two links of love, awhile untied
From the great chain above, but fast
Holding together to the last!—
Two fallen Splendors[2], from that tree,
Which buds with such eternally,[3]
Shaken to earth, yet keeping all
Their light and freshness in the fall.

[1] Sara.

[2] An allusion to the Sephiroths or Splendors of the Jewish Cabbala, represented as a tree, of which God is the crown or summit.

The Sephiroths are the higher orders of emanative beings in the strange and incomprehensible system of the Jewish Cabbala. They are called by various names, Pity, Beauty, &c. &c.; and their influences are supposed to act through certain canals, which communicate with each other.

[3] The reader may judge of the rationality of this Jewish system by the following explanation of part of the machinery:—"Les canaux qui sortent de la Misericorde et de la Force,

Their only punishment, (as wrong,
However sweet, must bear its brand,)
Their only doom was this — that, long
As the green earth and ocean stand,
They both shall wander here — the same,
Throughout all time, in heart and frame —
Still looking to that goal sublime,
Whose light remote, but sure, they see;
Pilgrims of Love, whose way is Time,
Whose home is in Eternity!
Subject, the while, to all the strife,
True Love encounters in this life —
The wishes, hopes, he breathes in vain;
The chill, that turns his warmest sighs
To earthly vapour, ere they rise;
The doubt he feeds on, and the pain
That in his very sweetness lies: —
Still worse, the' illusions that betray
His footsteps to their shining brink;
That tempt him, on his desert way
Through the bleak world, to bend and drink,
Where nothing meets his lips, alas, —
But he again must sighing pass
On to that far-off home of peace,
In which alone his thirst will cease.

All this they bear, but, not the less,
Have moments rich in happiness —
Blest meetings, after many a day
Of widowhood past far away,
When the lov'd face again is seen
Close, close, with not a tear between —
Confidings frank, without control,
Pour'd mutually from soul to soul;
As free from any fear or doubt
As is that light from chill or stain,
The sun into the stars sheds out,
To be by them shed back again! —
That happy minglement of hearts,
Where, chang'd as chymic compounds are,
Each with its own existence parts,
To find a new one, happier far!

Such are their joys — and, crowning all,
That blessed hope of the bright hour,
When, happy and no more to fall,
Their spirits shall, with freshen'd power,
Rise up rewarded for their trust
In Him, from whom all goodness springs,
And, shaking off earth's soiling dust
From their emancipated wings,
Wander for ever through those skies
Of radiance, where Love never dies!

In what lone region of the earth
These Pilgrims now may roam or dwell,
God and the Angels, who look forth
To watch their steps, alone can tell.
But should we, in our wanderings,
Meet a young pair, whose beauty wants
But the adornment of bright wings,
To look like heaven's inhabitants —
Who shine where'er they tread, and yet
Are humble in their earthly lot,
As is the way-side violet,
That shines unseen, and were it not
For its sweet breath would be forgot —
Whose hearts, in every thought, are one,
Whose voices utter the same wills —
Answering, as Echo doth some tone
Of fairy music 'mong the hills,
So like itself, we seek in vain
Which is the echo, which the strain —
Whose piety is love, whose love,
Though close as 'twere their souls' embrace,
Is not of earth, but from above —
Like two fair mirrors, face to face,
Whose light, from one to the' other thrown,
Is heaven's reflection, not their own —
Should we e'er meet with aught so pure,
So perfect here, we may be sure
'Tis ZARAPH and his bride we see;
And call young lovers round, to view
The pilgrim pair, as they pursue
Their pathway towards eternity.

et qui vont aboutir à la Beauté, sont chargés d'un grand nombre d'Anges. Il y en a trente-cinq sur le canal de la Miséricorde, qui recompensent et qui couronnent la vertu des Saints," &c. &c. — For a concise account of the Cabalistic Philosophy, see Enfield's very useful compendium of Brucker.

"On les représente quelquefois sous la figure d'un arbre . . . . l'Ensoph qu'on met au-dessus de l'arbre Sephirotique ou des Splendeurs divins, est l'Infini." — *L'Histoire des Juifs*, liv. ix. 11.

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

SCEPTICISM.

ERE Psyche drank the cup, that shed
Immortal Life into her soul,
Some evil spirit pour'd, 'tis said,
One drop of Doubt into the bowl—

Which, mingling darkly with the stream,
To Psyche's lips—she knew not why—
Made even that blessed nectar seem
As though its sweetness soon would die.

Oft, in the very arms of Love,
A chill came o'er her heart—a fear
That Death might, even yet, remove
Her spirit from that happy sphere.

"Those sunny ringlets," she exclaim'd,
"Twining them round her snowy fingers;
"That forehead, where a light, unnam'd,
"Unknown on earth, for ever lingers;

"Those lips, through which I feel the breath
"Of Heaven itself, whene'er they sever—
"Say, are they mine, beyond all death,
"My own, hereafter, and for ever?

"Smile not—I know that starry brow,
"Those ringlets, and bright lips of thine,
"Will always shine, as they do now—
"But shall *I* live to *see* them shine?"

In vain did Love say, "Turn thine eyes
"On all that sparkles round thee here—
"Thou'rt now in heaven, where nothing dies,
"And in these arms—what *canst* thou fear?"

In vain—the fatal drop, that stole
Into that cup's immortal treasure,
Had lodg'd its bitter near her soul,
And gave a tinge to every pleasure.

And, though there ne'er was transport given
Like Psyche's with that radiant boy,
Hers is the only face in heaven,
That wears a cloud amid its joy

A JOKE VERSIFIED.

"COME, come," said Tom's father, "at your time of life,
"There's no longer excuse for thus playing the rake—
"It is time you should think, boy, of taking a wife"—
"Why, so it is, father—whose wife shall I take?"

ON THE DEATH OF A FRIEND.

PURE as the mantle, which, o'er him who stood
By JORDAN'S stream, descended from the sky,
Is that remembrance, which the wise and good
Leave in the hearts that love them, when they die.
So pure, so precious shall the memory be,
Bequeath'd, in dying, to our souls by thee—
So shall the love we bore thee, cherish'd warm
Within our souls through grief, and pain, and strife,
Be, like ELISHA'S cruise, a holy charm,
Wherewith to "heal the waters" of this life!

TO JAMES CORRY, ESQ.

ON HIS MAKING ME A PRESENT OF A WINE STRAINER.

Brighton, June, 1825.

THIS life, dear Corry, who can doubt?—
Resembles much friend Ewart's[1] wine,
When *first* the rosy drops come out,
How beautiful, how cl[illegible]ng they shine!

And thus awhile they keep their tint,
So free from even a shade with some,
That they would smile, did you but hint,
That darker drops would *ever* come.

[1] A wine-merchant.

But soon the ruby tide runs short,
Each minute makes the sad truth plainer,
Till life, like old and crusty port,
When near its close, requires a strainer.

This friendship can alone confer,
Alone can teach the drops to pass,
If not as bright as *once* they were,
At least unclouded, through the glass.

Nor, Corry, could a boon be mine,
Of which this heart were fonder, vainer,
Than thus, if life grow like old wine,
To have *thy* friendship for its strainer.

FRAGMENT OF A CHARACTER.

Here lies Factotum Ned at last;
Long as he breath'd the vital air,
Nothing throughout all Europe pass'd,
In which Ned hadn't some small share.

Whoe'er was *in*, whoe'er was *out*,
Whatever statesmen did or said,
If not exactly brought about,
'Twas all, at least, contriv'd by Ned.

With Nap, if Russia went to war,
'Twas owing, under Providence,
To certain hints Ned gave the Czar—
(Vide his pamphlet—price, sixpence.)

If France was beat at Waterloo—
As all but Frenchmen think she was—
To Ned, as Wellington well knew,
Was owing half that day's applause.

Then for his news—no envoy's bag
E'er pass'd so many secrets through it;
Scarcely a telegraph could wag
Its wooden finger, but Ned knew it.

Such tales he had of foreign plots,
With foreign names, one's ear to buzz in!
From Russia, *chefs* and *ofs* in lots,
From Poland, *owskis* by the dozen.

When George, alarm'd for England's creed,
Turn'd out the last Whig ministry,
And men ask'd—who advis'd the deed?
Ned modestly confess'd 'twas he.

For though, by some unlucky miss,
He had not downwright *seen* the King,
He sent such hints through Viscount *This*,
To Marquis *That*, as clench'd the thing.

The same it was in science, arts,
The Drama, Books, MS. and printed—
Kean learn'd from Ned his cleverest parts,
And Scott's last work by him was hinted.

Childe Harold in the proofs he read,
And, here and there, infus'd some soul in't—
Nay, Davy's Lamp, till seen by Ned,
Had—odd enough—an awkward hole in't.

'Twas thus, all-doing and all-knowing,
Wit, statesman, boxer, chymist, singer,
Whatever was the best pye going,
In *that* Ned—trust him—had his finger.

* * * * * * * *

WHAT SHALL I SING THEE?

TO ——.

What shall I sing thee? Shall I tell
Of that bright hour, remember'd well
As though it shone but yesterday,
When, loitering idly in the ray
Of a spring-sun, I heard, o'erhead,
My name as by some spirit said,
And, looking up, saw two bright eyes
Above me from a casement shine,
Dazzling my mind with such surprise
As they, who sail beyond the Line,
Feel when new stars above them rise;—
And it was thine, the voice that spoke,
Like Ariel's, in the mid-air then;
And thine the eye, whose lustre broke—
Never to be forgot again!

What shall I sing thee? Shall I weave
A song of that sweet summer-eve,
(Summer, of which the sunniest part
Was that we, each, had in the heart,)
When thou and I, and one like thee,
In life and beauty, to the sound
Of our own breathless minstrelsy,
Danc'd till the sunlight faded round,
Ourselves the whole ideal Ball,
Lights, music, company, and all!
Oh, 'tis not in the languid strain
Of lute like mine, whose day is past,
To call up even a dream again
Of the fresh light those moments cast.

COUNTRY DANCE AND QUADRILLE.

ONE night the nymph call'd COUNTRY DANCE—
(Whom folks, of late, have used so ill,
Preferring a coquette from France,
That mincing thing, *Mamselle* QUADRILLE)—

Having been chas'd from London down
To that most humble haunt of all
She used to grace—a Country Town—
Went smiling to the New-Year's Ball.

"Here, here, at least," she cried, "though driven
"From London's gay and shining tracks—
"Though, like a Peri cast from heaven,
"I've lost, for ever lost, Almack's—

"Though not a London Miss alive
"Would now for her acquaintance own me;
"And spinsters, even, of forty-five,
"Upon their honours ne'er have known me;

"Here, here, at least, I triumph still,
"And—spite of some few dandy Lancers,
"Who vainly try to preach Quadrille—
"See nought but *true-blue* Country Dancers.

"Here still I reign, and, fresh in charms,
"My throne, like Magna Charta, raise
"'Mong sturdy, freeborn legs and arms,
"That scorn the threaten'd *chaîne Anglaise*."

'Twas thus she said, as 'mid the din
Of footmen, and the town sedan,
She lighted at the King's Head Inn,
And up the stairs triumphant ran.

The Squires and their Squiresses all,
With young Squirinas, just *come out*,
And my Lord's daughters from the Hall,
(Quadrillers, in their hearts, no doubt,)—

All these, as light she tripp'd up stairs,
Were in the cloak-room seen assembling—
When, hark! some new, outlandish airs,
From the First Fiddle, set her trembling.

She stops—she listens—*can* it be?
Alas, in vain her ears would 'scape it—
It *is* "Di tanti palpiti"
As plain as English bow can scrape it.

"Courage!" however—in she goes,
With her best, sweeping country grace;
When, ah too true, her worst of foes,
QUADRILLE, there meets her, face to face.

Oh for the lyre, or violin,
Or kit of that gay Muse, Terpsichore,
To sing the rage these nymphs were in,
Their looks and language, airs and trickery.

There stood QUADRILLE, with cat-like face
(The beau-ideal of French beauty),
A band-box thing, all art and lace
Down from her nose-tip to her shoe-tye.

Her flounces, fresh from *Victorine*—
From *Hippolyte*, her rouge and hair—
Her poetry, from *Lamartine*—
Her morals, from—the Lord knows where.

And, when she danc'd—so slidingly,
So near the ground she plied her art,
You'd swear her mother-earth and she
Had made a compact ne'er to part.

Her face too, all the while, sedate,
No signs of life or motion showing,
Like a bright *pendule*'s dial-plate—
So still, you'd hardly think 'twas *going*.

Full fronting her stood *Country Dance*—
A fresh, frank nymph, whom you would know
For English, at a single glance—
English all o'er, from top to toe.

A little *gauche*, 'tis fair to own,
And rather given to skips and bounces;
Endangering thereby many a gown,
And playing, oft, the devil with flounces.

Unlike *Mamselle*—who would prefer
(As morally a lesser ill)
A thousand flaws of character,
To one vile rumple of a frill.

No rouge did She of Albion wear;
Let her but run that two-heat race
She calls a *Set*, not Dian e'er
Came rosier from the woodland chase.

Such was the nymph, whose soul had in't
Such anger now—whose eyes of blue
(Eyes of that bright, victorious tint,
Which English maids call "*Waterloo*")—

Like summer lightnings, in the dusk
Of a warm evening, flashing broke,
While—to the tune of "Money Musk,"[1]
Which struck up now—she proudly spoke:—

[1] An old English Country Dance.

" Heard you that strain—that joyous strain?
" 'Twas such as England lov'd to hear,
" Ere thou, and all thy frippery train,
" Corrupted both her foot and ear—

" Ere Waltz, that rake from foreign lands,
" Presum'd, in sight of all beholders,
" To lay his rude, licentious hands
" On virtuous English backs and shoulders—

" Ere times and morals both grew bad,
" And, yet unfleec'd by funding blockheads,
" Happy John Bull not only *had*,
" But danc'd to, 'Money in both pockets.'

" Alas, the change!—Oh, L—d—y,
" Where is the land could 'scape disasters,
" With *such* a Foreign Secretary,
" Aided by Foreign Dancing Masters?

" Woe to ye, men of ships and shops!
" Rulers of day-books and of waves!
" Quadrill'd, on one-side, into fops,
" And drill'd, on t'other, into slaves!

" Ye, too, ye lovely victims, seen,
" Like pigeons, truss'd for exhibition,
"With elbows, *à la crapaudine*,
" And feet in—God knows what position;

" Hemm'd in by watchful chaperons,
" Inspectors of your airs and graces,
" Who intercept all whisper'd tones,
" And read your telegraphic faces;

" Unable with the youth ador'd,
" In that grim *cordon* of Mammas,
" To interchange one tender word,
" Though whisper'd but in *queue de chats*.

" Ah did you know how blest we rang'd,
" Ere vile Quadrille usurp'd the fiddle—
" What looks in *setting* were exchang'd,
" What tender words in *down the middle;*

" How many a couple, like the wind,
" Which nothing in its course controls,
" Left time and chaperons far behind,
" And gave a loose to legs and souls;

" How matrimony throve—ere stopp'd
" By this cold, silent, foot-coquetting—
" How charmingly one's partner popp'd
" The' important question in *poussetting*.

" While now, alas—no sly advances—
" No marriage hints—all goes on badly—
" 'Twixt Parson Malthus and French Dances,
" We, girls, are at a discount sadly.

" Sir William Scott (now Baron Stowell)
" Declares not half so much is made
" By Licences—and he must know well—
" Since vile Quadrilling spoil'd the trade."

She ceas'd—tears fell from every Miss—
She now had touch'd the true pathetic:—
One such authentic fact as this
Is worth whole volumes theoretic.

Instant the cry was " Country dance!"
And the maid saw, with brightening face,
The Steward of the night advance,
And lead her to her birthright place.

The fiddles, which awhile had ceas'd,
Now tun'd again their summons sweet,
And, for one happy night, at least,
Old England's triumph was complete.

GAZEL.

HASTE, Maami, the spring is nigh;
Already, in the' unopen'd flowers
That sleep around us, Fancy's eye
Can see the blush of future bowers;
And joy it brings to thee and me,
My own beloved Maami!

The streamlet frozen on its way,
To feed the marble Founts of Kings,
Now, loosen'd by the vernal ray,
Upon its path exulting springs—
As doth this bounding heart to thee,
My ever blissful Maami!

Such bright hours were not made to stay;
Enough if they a while remain,
Like Irem's bowers, that fade away,
From time to time, and come again.
And life shall all one Irem be
For us, my gentle Maami.

O haste, for this impatient heart,
Is like the rose in Yemen's vale,
That rends its inmost leaves apart
With passion for the nightingale;
So languishes this soul for thee,
My bright and blushing Maami!

LINES

ON THE DEATH OF

JOSEPH ATKINSON, ESQ. OF DUBLIN.

If ever life was prosperously cast,
If ever life was like the lengthen'd flow
Of some sweet music, sweetness to the last,
'Twas his who, mourn'd by many, sleeps below.

The sunny temper, bright where all is strife,
The simple heart above all worldly wiles;
Light wit that plays along the calm of life,
And stirs its languid surface into smiles;

Pure charity, that comes not in a shower,
Sudden and loud, oppressing what it feeds,
But, like the dew, with gradual silent power,
Felt in the bloom it leaves along the meads;

The happy grateful spirit, that improves
And brightens every gift by fortune given;
That, wander where it will with those it loves,
Makes every place a home, and home a heaven:

All these were his.—Oh, thou who read'st this stone,
When for thyself, thy children, to the sky
Thou humbly prayest, ask this boon alone,
That ye like him may live, like him may die!

GENIUS AND CRITICISM.

Scripsit quidem fata, sed sequitur.
SENECA.

Of old, the Sultan Genius reign'd,
As Nature meant, supreme, alone;
With mind uncheck'd, and hands unchain'd,
His views, his conquests were his own.

But power like his, that digs its grave
With its own sceptre, could not last;
So Genius' self became the slave
Of laws that Genius' self had pass'd.

As Jove, who forg'd the chain of Fate,
Was, ever after, doom'd to wear it;
His nods, his struggles all too late—
"*Qui semel jussit, semper paret.*"

To check young Genius' proud career,
The slaves, who now his throne invaded,
Made Criticism his prime Vizir,
And from that hour his glories faded.

Tied down in Legislation's school,
Afraid of even his own ambition,
His very victories were by rule,
And he was great but by permission.

His most heroic deeds—the same,
That dazzled, when spontaneous actions—
Now, done by law, seem'd cold and tame,
And shorn of all their first attractions.

If he but stirr'd to take the air,
Instant, the Vizir's Council sat—
"Good Lord, your Highness can't go there—
"Bless me, your Highness can't do that."

If, loving pomp, he chose to buy
Rich jewels for his diadem,
"The taste was bad, the price was high—
"A flower were simpler than a gem."

To please them if he took to flowers—
"What trifling, what unmeaning things!
"Fit for a woman's toilet hours,
"But not at all the style for Kings."

If, fond of his domestic sphere,
He play'd no more the rambling comet—
"A dull, good sort of man, 'twas clear,
"But, as for great or brave, far from it."

Did he then look o'er distant oceans,
For realms more worthy to enthrone him?
"Saint Aristotle, what wild notions!
"Serve a 'ne exeat regno' on him."

At length, their last and worst to do,
They round him plac'd a guard of watchmen,
Reviewers, knaves in brown, or blue
Turn'd up with yellow—chiefly Scotchmen;

To dog his footsteps all about,
Like those in Longwood's prison grounds,
Who at Napoleon's heels rode out,
For fear the Conqueror should break bounds.

Oh for some Champion of his power,
Some *Ultra* spirit, to set free,
As erst in Shakspeare's sovereign hour,
The thunders of his Royalty!—

To vindicate his ancient line,
The first, the true, the only one,
Of Right eternal and divine,
That rules beneath the blessed sun.

TO LADY J * R * * Y,

ON BEING ASKED TO WRITE SOMETHING IN HER ALBUM.

Written at Middleton.

Oh albums, albums, how I dread,
Your everlasting scrap and scrawl!
How often wish that from the dead,
Old Omar would pop forth his head,
And make a bonfire of you all!

So might I 'scape the spinster band,
The blushless blues, who, day and night,
Like duns in doorways, take their stand,
To waylay bards, with book in hand,
Crying for ever, "Write, sir, write!"

So might I shun the shame and pain,
That o'er me at this instant come,
When Beauty, seeking Wit in vain,
Knocks at the portal of my brain,
And gets, for answer, "Not at home!"

November, 1828.

TO THE SAME.

ON LOOKING THROUGH HER ALBUM.

No wonder bards, both high and low,
From Byron down to * * * * * and me,
Should seek the fame, which all bestow
On him whose task is praising thee.

Let but the theme be J * r * * y's eyes,
At once all errors are forgiven;
As ev'n old Sternhold still we prize,
Because, though dull, he sings of heaven.

SATIRICAL AND HUMOROUS POEMS.

The following trifles, having enjoyed, in their circulation through the newspapers, all the celebrity and length of life to which they were entitled, would have been suffered to pass quietly into oblivion without pretending to any further distinction, had they not already been published, in a collective form, both in London and Paris, and, in each case, been mixed up with a number of other productions, to which, whatever may be their merit, the author of the following pages has no claim. A natural desire to separate his own property, worthless as it is, from that of others, is, he begs to say, the chief motive of the publication of this volume.

SATIRICAL AND HUMOROUS POEMS.

TO SIR HUDSON LOWE.

Effare causam nominis,
Utrumne mores hoc tui
Nomen dedere, an nomen hoc
Secuta morum regula. Ausonius.

1816.

Sir Hudson Lowe, Sir Hudson *Low*,
(By name, and ah! by nature so)
As thou art fond of persecutions,
Perhaps thou'st read, or heard repeated,
How Captain Gulliver was treated,
When thrown among the Lilliputians.

They tied him down—these little men did—
And having valiantly ascended
Upon the Mighty Man's protuberance,
They did so strut!—upon my soul,
It must have been extremely droll
To see their pigmy pride's exuberance!

And how the doughty mannikins
Amus'd themselves with sticking pins,
And needles in the great man's breeches:
And how some *very* little things,
That pass'd for Lords, on scaffoldings
Got up, and worried him with speeches.

Alas, alas! that it should happen
To mighty men to be caught napping!—
Though different, too, these persecutions;
For Gulliver, *there*, took the nap,
While, *here* the *Nap*, oh sad mishap,
Is taken by the Lilliputians!

AMATORY COLLOQUY BETWEEN BANK AND GOVERNMENT.

1826.

BANK.

Is all then forgotten? those amorous pranks
You and I, in our youth, my dear Government, play'd;
When you call'd me the fondest, the truest of Banks,
And enjoy'd the endearing *advances* I made!

When left to ourselves, unmolested and free,
To do all that a dashing young couple should do,
A law against *paying* was laid upon me,
But none against *owing*, dear helpmate, on you.

And is it then vanish'd?—that "hour (as Othello
So happily calls it) of Love and *Direction?*"[1]
And must we, like other fond doves, my dear fellow,
Grow good in our old age, and cut the connexion?

GOVERNMENT.

Even so, my belov'd Mrs. Bank, it must be;
This paying in cash plays the devil with wooing:[2]
We've both had our swing, but I plainly foresee
There must soon be a stop to our *bill*-ing and cooing.

Propagation in reason—a small child or two—
Even Reverend Malthus himself is a friend to;
The issue of some folks is moderate and few—
But *ours*, my dear corporate Bank, there's no end to!

So—hard though it be on a pair, who've already
Dispos'd of so many pounds, shillings, and pence;
And, in spite of that pink of prosperity, Freddy,[3]
So lavish of cash and so sparing of sense—

The day is at hand, my Papyria[4] Venus,
When—high as we once used to carry our capers—
Those soft *billet-doux* we're now passing between us,
Will serve but to keep Mrs. Coutts in curl-papers:

And when—if we *still* must continue our love,
(After all that has pass'd)—our amour, it is clear,
Like that which Miss Danäe manag'd with Jove,
Must all be transacted in *bullion*, my dear!

February, 1826.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN A SOVEREIGN AND A ONE POUND NOTE.

"O ego non felix, quam tu fugis, ut pavet acres
Agna lupos, capreæque leones." HOR.

SAID a Sov'reign to a Note,
In the pocket of my coat,
Where they met in a neat purse of leather,
"How happens it, I prithee,
"That, though I'm wedded *with* thee,
"Fair Pound, we can never live together?

"Like your sex, fond of *change*,
"With silver you can range,
"And of lots of young sixpences be mother;
"While with *me*—upon my word,
"Not my Lady and my Lord
"Of W—stm—th see so little of each other!"

The indignant Note replied
(Lying crumpled by his side),
"Shame, shame, it is *yourself* that roam, Sir—
"One cannot look askance,
"But, whip! you're off to France,
"Leaving nothing but old rags at home, Sir.

[1] ——— "An hour
Of love, of worldly matter and direction."

[2] It appears, however, that Ovid was a friend to the resumption of payment in specie:—

——— "finem, *specie* cæleste *resumtâ*,
Luctibus imposuit, venitque salutifer urbi."
Met. l. xv. v. 743.

[3] Honourable Frederick R—b—ns—n.

[4] So called, to distinguish her from the "Aurea" or *Golden* Venus.

"Your scampering began
"From the moment Parson Van,
"Poor man, made us *one* in Love's fetter;
"'For better or for worse'
"Is the usual marriage curse,
"But ours is all 'worse' and no 'better.'

"In vain are laws pass'd,
"There's nothing holds you fast,
"Tho' you know, sweet Sovereign, I adore you—
"At the smallest hint in life,
"You forsake your lawful wife,
"As *other* Sovereigns did before you.

"I flirt with Silver, true—
"But what can ladies do,
"When disown'd by their natural protectors?
"And as to falsehood, stuff!
"I shall soon be *false* enough,
"When I get among those wicked Bank Directors."

The Sovereign, smiling on her,
Now swore, upon his honour,
To be henceforth domestic and loyal;
But, within an hour or two,
Why—I sold him to a Jew,
And he's now at No. 10. Palais Royal.

AN EXPOSTULATION TO LORD KING.

"Quem das finem, Rex magne, laborum?" VIRGIL.

1826.

How *can* you, my Lord, thus delight to torment all
The Peers of the realm about cheapening their corn, [1]
When you know, if one hasn't a very high rental,
'Tis hardly worth while being very high born?

Why bore them so rudely, each night of your life,
On a question, my Lord, there's so much to abhor in?
A question—like asking one, "How is your wife?"—
At once so confounded *domestic* and *foreign*.

As to weavers, no matter how poorly they feast;
But Peers, and such animals, fed up for show,
(Like the well-physick'd elephant, lately deceas'd,)
Take a wonderful quantum of cramming, you know.

You might see, my dear Baron, how bor'd and distrest
Were their high noble hearts by your merciless tale,
When the force of the agony wrung even a jest
From the frugal Scotch wit of my Lord L–d–d–le! [2]

Bright peer! to whom Nature and Berwickshire gave
A humour, endow'd with effects so provoking,
That, when the whole House looks unusually grave,
You may always conclude that Lord L–d–d–le's joking!

And then, those unfortunate weavers of Perth—
Not to know the vast difference Providence dooms
Between weavers of Perth and Peers of high birth,
'Twixt those who have *heir*-looms, and those who've but looms!

"To talk *now* of starving!"—as great Ath—l said—[3]
(And the nobles all cheer'd, and the bishops all wonder'd,)
"When, some years ago, he and others had fed
"Of these same hungry devils about fifteen hundred!"

It follows from hence—and the Duke's very words
Should be publish'd wherever poor rogues of this craft are—
That weavers, *once* rescued from starving by Lords,
Are bound to be starved by said Lords ever after.

When Rome was uproarious, her knowing patricians
Made "Bread and the Circus" a cure for each *row;*
But not so the plan of *our* noble physicians,
"No Bread and the Tread-mill's" the regimen now.

[1] See the proceedings of the Lords, Wednesday, March 1. 1826, when Lord King was severely reproved by several of the noble Peers, for making so many speeches against the Corn Laws.

[2] This noble Earl said, that "when he heard the petition came from ladies' boot and shoemakers, he thought it must be against the 'corns' which they inflicted on the fair sex."

[3] The Duke of Athol said, that "at a former period, when these weavers were in great distress, the landed interest of Perth had supported 1500 of them. It was a poor return for these very men now to petition against the persons who had fed them."

So cease, my dear Baron of Ockham, your prose,
As I shall my poetry—*neither* convinces;
And all we have spoken and written but shows,
When you tread on a nobleman's *corn*[1], how he winces.

THE SINKING FUND CRIED.

"Now what, we ask, is become of this Sinking Fund—these eight millions of surplus above expenditure, which were to reduce the interest of the national debt by the amount of four hundred thousand pounds annually? Where, indeed, is the Sinking Fund itself?"—*The Times.*

TAKE your bell, take your bell,
Good Crier, and tell
To the Bulls and the Bears, till their ears are stunn'd,
That, lost or stolen,
Or fall'n through a hole in
The Treasury floor, is the Sinking Fund!

O yes! O yes!
Can any body guess
What the deuce has become of this Treasury wonder?
It has Pitt's name on't,
All brass, in the front,
And R—b—ns—n's, scrawl'd with a goose-quill, under.

Folks well knew what
Would soon be its lot,
When Frederick and Jenky set hob-nobbing,[2]
And said to each other,
"Suppose, dear brother,
"We make this funny old Fund worth robbing."

We are come, alas!
To a very pretty pass—
Eight Hundred Millions of score, to pay,
With but Five in the till,
To discharge the bill,
And even that Five, too, whipp'd away!

Stop thief! stop thief!—
From the Sub to the Chief,
These *Gemmen* of Finance are plundering cattle—
Call the watch—call Brougham,
Tell Joseph Hume,
That best of Charleys, to spring his rattle.

Whoever will bring
This aforesaid thing
To the well-known house of Bobinson and Jenkin,
Shall be paid, with thanks,
In the notes of banks,
Whose Funds have all learn'd "the Art of Sinking."

O yes! O yes!
Can any body guess
What the devil has become of this Treasury wonder?
It has Pitt's name on't,
All brass, in the front,
And R—b—ns—n's, scrawl'd with a goose-quill, under.

ODE TO THE GODDESS CERES.

BY SIR TH—M—S L—THBR—E.

"Legiferæ Cereri Phœboque." VIRGIL.

DEAR Goddess of Corn, whom the ancients, we know,
(Among other odd whims of those comical bodies,)
Adorn'd with somniferous poppies, to show
Thou wert always a true Country-gentleman's Goddess.

Behold, in his best shooting-jacket, before thee,
An eloquent 'Squire, who most humbly beseeches,
Great Queen of Mark-lane (if the thing doesn't bore thee),
Thou'lt read o'er the last of his—*never*-last speeches.

Ah! Ceres, thou know'st not the slander and scorn
Now heap'd upon England's 'Squirearchy, so boasted;
Improving on Hunt[3], 'tis no longer the Corn,
'Tis the *growers* of Corn that are now, alas! roasted.

In speeches, in books, in all shapes they attack us—
Reviewers, economists—fellows, no doubt,
That you, my dear Ceres, and Venus, and Bacchus,
And Gods of high fashion know little about.

[1] An improvement, we flatter ourselves, on Lord L.'s joke.
[2] In 1824, when the Sinking Fund was raised by the imposition of new taxes to the sum of five millions.
[3] A sort of "breakfast-powder," composed of roasted corn, was about this time introduced by Mr. Hunt, as a substitute for coffee.

There's B—nth—m, whose English is all his own making,—
Who thinks just as little of settling a nation
As he would of smoking his pipe, or of taking
(What he, himself, calls) his "post-prandial vibration."[1]

There are two Mr. M——lls, too, whom those that love reading
Through all that's unreadable, call very clever;—
And, whereas M——ll Senior makes war on *good* breeding,
M——ll Junior makes war on all *breeding* whatever!

In short, my dear Goddess, Old England's divided
Between *ultra* blockheads and superfine sages;—
With *which* of these classes we, landlords, have sided
Thou'lt find in my Speech, if thou'lt read a few pages.

For therein I've prov'd, to my own satisfaction,
And that of all 'Squires I've the honour of meeting,
That 'tis the most senseless and foul-mouth'd detraction
To say that poor people are fond of cheap eating.

On the contrary, such the "*chaste* notions[2]" of food
That dwell in each pale manufacturer's heart,
They would scorn any law, be it ever so good,
That would make thee, dear Goddess, less dear than thou art!

And, oh! for Monopoly what a blest day,
When the Land and the Silk[3] shall, in fond combination,
(Like *Sulky* and *Silky*, that pair in the play,[4])
Cry out, with one voice, for High Rents and Starvation!

Long life to the Minister!—no matter who,
Or how dull he may be, if, with dignified spirit, he
Keeps the ports shut—and the people's mouths, too,—
We shall all have a long run of Freddy's prosperity.

And, as for myself, who've, like Hannibal, sworn
To hate the whole crew who would take our rents from us,
Had England but *One* to stand by thee, Dear Corn,
That last, honest Uni-Corn[5] would be Sir Th—m—s!

A HYMN OF WELCOME AFTER THE RECESS.

"Animas sapientiores fieri quiescendo."

And now—cross-buns and pancakes o'er—
Hail, Lords and Gentlemen, once more!
Thrice hail and welcome, Houses Twain!
The short eclipse of April-Day
Having (God grant it!) pass'd away,
Collective Wisdom, shine again!

Come, Ayes and Noes, through thick and thin,—
With Paddy H—lmes for whipper-in,—
Whate'er the job, prepar'd to back it;
Come, voters of Supplies—bestowers
Of jackets upon trumpet-blowers,
At eighty mortal pounds the jacket![6]

Come—free, at length, from Joint-Stock cares—
Ye Senators of many Shares,
Whose dreams of premium knew no boundary;
So fond of aught like *Company*,
That you would even have taken *tea*
(Had you been ask'd) with Mr. Goundry.[7]

Come, matchless country-gentlemen;
Come, wise Sir Thomas—wisest then,
When creeds and corn-laws are debated;
Come, rival even the Harlot Red,
And show how wholly into *bread*
A 'Squire is *transubstantiated*.

Come, L—derd—e, and tell the world,
That—surely as thy scratch is curl'd,
As never scratch was curl'd before—
Cheap eating does more harm than good,
And working-people, spoil'd by food,
The less they eat, will work the more.

[1] The venerable Jeremy's phrase for his after-dinner walk.

[2] A phrase in one of Sir T—m—s's last speeches.

[3] Great efforts were, at that time, making for the exclusion of foreign silk.

[4] Road to Ruin."

[5] This is meant not so much for a pun, as in allusion to the natural history of the Unicorn, which is supposed to be something between the Bos and the Asinus, and, as Rees's Cyclopædia assures us, has a particular liking for every thing "chaste."

[6] An item of expense which Mr. Hume in vain endeavoured to get rid of:—trumpeters, it appears, like the men of All-Souls, must be "*bene vestiti*."

[7] The gentleman, lately before the public, who kept his *Joint*-Stock Tea Company all to himself, singing "*Te* solo adoro."

Come, G—lb—rn, with thy glib defence
(Which thou'dst have made for Peter's Pence)
Of Church-Rates, worthy of a halter;
Two pipes of port (*old* port, 'twas said
By honest *New*port [1]) bought and paid
By Papists for the Orange Altar! [2]

Come, H—rt—n, with thy plan, so merry,
For peopling Canada from Kerry—
Not so much rendering Ireland quiet,
As grafting on the dull Canadians
That liveliest of earth's contagions,
The *bull*-pock of Hibernian riot!

Come all, in short, ye wondrous men
Of wit and wisdom, come again;
Though short your absence, all deplore it—
Oh, come and show, whate'er men say,
That you can, *after* April-Day,
Be just as—sapient as *before* it.

MEMORABILIA OF LAST WEEK.

MONDAY, MARCH 13. 1826.

The Budget—quite charming and witty—no hearing,
For plaudits and laughs, the good things that were in it;—
Great comfort to find, though the Speech isn't *cheering*,
That all its gay auditors *were*, every minute.

What, *still* more prosperity!—mercy upon us,
"This boy'll be the death of me"—oft as, already,
Such smooth Budgeteers have genteelly undone us,
For *Ruin made easy* there's no one like Freddy.

TUESDAY.

Much grave apprehension express'd by the Peers,
Lest—calling to life the old Peachums and Lockitts—
The large stock of gold we're to have in three years,
Should all find its way into highwaymen's pockets! [3]

* * * * *

[1] Sir John Newport.

[2] This charge of two pipes of port for the sacramental wine is a precious specimen of the sort of rates levied upon their Catholic fellow-parishioners by the Irish Protestants.

"The thirst that from the soul doth rise
Doth ask a drink divine."

WEDNESDAY.

Little doing—for sacred, oh Wednesday, thou art
To the seven-o'-clock joys of full many a table—
When *the Members* all meet, to make much of that part,
With which they so rashly fell out, in the Fable.

It appear'd, though, to-night, that—as church-wardens, yearly,
Eat up a small baby—those cormorant sinners,
The Bankrupt-Commissioners, *bolt* very nearly
A moderate-siz'd bankrupt, *tout chaud*, for their dinners! [4]
Nota bene—a rumour to-day, in the City,
"Mr. R—b—ns—n just has resign'd"—what a pity!
The Bulls and the Bears all fell a sobbing,
When they heard of the fate of poor Cock *Robin*;
While thus, to the nursery tune, so pretty,
A murmuring *Stock*-dove breath'd her ditty:—

Alas, poor *Robin*, he crow'd as long
And as sweet as a prosperous Cock could crow;
But his *note* was *small*, and the *gold*-finch's song
Was a pitch too high for Robin to go.
Who'll make his shroud?

"I," said the Bank, "though he play'd me a prank,
"While I have a rag, poor *Rob* shall be roll'd in't,
"With many a pound I'll paper him round,
"Like a plump rouleau—*without* the gold in't."

* * * * *

ALL IN THE FAMILY WAY.

A NEW PASTORAL BALLAD.

(SUNG IN THE CHARACTER OF BRITANNIA.)

"The Public Debt is due from ourselves to ourselves, and resolves itself into a Family Account."—*Sir Robert Peel's Letter.*

Tune—*My banks are all furnish'd with bees.*

My banks are all furnish'd with rags,
So thick, even Freddy can't thin 'em;
I've torn up my old money-bags,
Having little or nought to put in 'em.

[3] "Another objection to a metallic currency was, that it produced a greater number of highway robberies."—*Debate in the Lords.*

[4] Mr. Abercromby's statement of the enormous tavern bills of the Commissioners of Bankrupts.

My tradesmen are smashing by dozens,
But this is all nothing, they say;
For bankrupts, since Adam, are cousins,—
So, it's all in the family way.

My Debt not a penny takes from me,
As sages the matter explain;—
Bob owes it to Tom, and then Tommy
Just owes it to Bob back again.
Since all have thus taken to *owing*,
There's nobody left that can *pay*;
And this is the way to keep going,—
All quite in the family way.

My senators vote away millions,
To put in Prosperity's budget;
And though it were billions or trillions,
The generous rogues wouldn't grudge it.
'Tis all but a family *hop*,
'Twas Pitt began dancing the hay;
Hands round!—why the deuce should we stop?
'Tis all in the family way.

My labourers used to eat mutton,
As any great man of the State does;
And now the poor devils are put on
Small rations of tea and potatoes.
But cheer up, John, Sawney, and Paddy,
The King is your father, they say;
So, ev'n if you starve for your Daddy,
'Tis all in the family way.

My rich manufacturers tumble,
My poor ones have nothing to chew;
And, even if themselves do not grumble,
Their stomachs undoubtedly do.
But coolly to fast *en famille*,
Is as good for the soul as to pray;
And famine itself is genteel,
When one starves in a family way.

I have found out a secret for Freddy,
A secret for next Budget day;
Though, perhaps, he may know it already,
As *he*, too, 's a sage in his way.
When next for the Treasury scene he
Announces "the Devil to pay,"
Let him write on the bills, "*Nota bene*,
"'Tis all in the family way."

BALLAD FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ELECTION.

"I authorized my Committee to take the step which they did, of proposing a fair comparison of strength, upon the understanding that *whichever of the two should prove to be the weakest*, should give way to the other."—*Extract from Mr. W. J. B—kes's Letter to Mr. G—lb—n.*

B—KES is weak, and G—lb—n too,
No one e'er the fact denied;—
Which is "*weakest*" of the two,
Cambridge can alone decide.
Choose between them, Cambridge, pray,
Which is weakest, Cambridge, say.

G—lb—n of the Pope afraid is,
B—kes, as much afraid as he;
Never yet did two old ladies
On this point so well agree.
Choose between them, Cambridge, pray,
Which is weakest, Cambridge, say.

Each a different mode pursues,
Each the same conclusion reaches;
B—kes is foolish in Reviews,
G—lb—n, foolish in his speeches.
Choose between them, Cambridge, pray,
Which is weakest, Cambridge, say.

Each a different foe doth damn,
When his own affairs have gone ill;
B—kes he damneth Buckingham,
G—lb—n damneth Dan O'Connell.
Choose between them, Cambridge, pray,
Which is weakest, Cambridge, say.

Once, we know, a horse's neigh
Fix'd the' election to a throne,
So, which ever first shall *bray*,
Choose him, Cambridge, for thy own.
Choose him, choose him by his bray,
Thus elect him, Cambridge, pray.

June, 1826.

MR. ROGER DODSWORTH.

1826.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Having just heard of the wonderful resurrection of Mr. Roger Dodsworth from under an *avalanche*, where he had remained, *bien frappé*, it seems, for the last 166 years, I hasten to impart to you a few reflections on the subject.—Yours, &c. LAUDATOR TEMPORIS ACTI.

WHAT a lucky turn up!—just as Eld—n's withdrawing,
To find thus a gentleman, froz'n in the year

Sixteen hundred and sixty, who only wants thawing,
To serve for *our* times quite as well as the Peer;—

To bring thus to light, not the Wisdom alone
Of our Ancestors, such as 'tis found on our shelves,
But, in perfect condition, full-wigg'd and full-grown,
To shovel up one of those wise bucks themselves!

Oh thaw Mr. Dodsworth, and send him safe home—
Let him learn nothing useful or new on the way;
With his wisdom kept snug from the light let him come,
And our Tories will hail him with "Hear!" and "Hurra!"

What a God-send to *them!*—a good, obsolete man,
Who has never of Locke or Voltaire been a reader;—
Oh thaw Mr. Dodsworth as fast as you can,
And the L—nsd—les and H—rtf—rds shall choose him for leader.

Yes, sleeper of ages, thou *shalt* be their chosen;
And deeply with thee will they sorrow, good men,
To think that all Europe has, since thou wert frozen,
So alter'd, thou hardly wilt know it again.

And Eld—n will weep o'er each sad innovation
Such oceans of tears, thou wilt fancy that he
Has been also laid up in a long congelation,
And is only now thawing, dear Roger, like thee.

COPY OF AN INTERCEPTED DESPATCH.

FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DON STREPITOSO DIABOLO, ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY TO HIS SATANIC MAJESTY.

St. James's Street, July 1. 1826.

GREAT Sir, having just had the good luck to catch
An official young Demon, preparing to go,
Ready booted and spurr'd, with a black-leg despatch
From the Hell here, at Cr—ckf—rd's to *our* Hell, below—

I write these few lines to your Highness Satanic,
To say that, first having obey'd your directions,
And done all the mischief I could in "the Panic,"
My next special care was to help the Elections.

Well knowing how dear were those times to thy soul,
When every good Christian tormented his brother,
And caus'd, in thy realm, such a saving of coal,
From all coming down, ready grill'd by each other;

Rememb'ring, besides, how it pain'd thee to part
With the Old Penal Code—that *chef-d'œuvre* of Law,
In which (though to own it too modest thou art)
We could plainly perceive the fine touch of thy claw;

I thought, as we ne'er can those good times revive,
(Though Eld—n, with help from your Highness would try,)
'Twould still keep a taste for Hell's music alive,
Could we get up a thund'ring No-Popery cry;—

That yell which, when chorus'd by laics and clerics,
So like is to *ours*, in its spirit and tone,
That I often nigh laugh myself into hysterics,
To think that Religion should make it her own.

So, having sent down for the' original notes
Of the chorus, as sung by your Majesty's choir,
With a few pints of lava, to gargle the throats
Of myself and some others, who sing it "with fire,"[1]

Thought I, "if the Marseillois Hymn could command
"Such audience, though yell'd by a *Sans-culotte* crew,
"What wonders shall *we* do, who've men in our band,
"That not only wear breeches, but petticoats too."

Such *then* were my hopes; but, with sorrow, your Highness,
I'm forc'd to confess—be the cause what it will,
Whether fewness of voices, or hoarseness, or shyness,—
Our Beelzebub chorus has gone off but ill.

The truth is, no placeman now knows his right key,
The Treasury pitch-pipe of late is so various;
And certain *base* voices, that look'd for a fee
At the *York* music-meeting, now think it precarious.

[1] *Con fuoco*—a music-book direction.

Even some of our Reverends *might* have been warmer, —
Though one or two capital roarers we've had;
Doctor Wise[1] is, for instance, a charming performer,
And *Huntingdon* Maberley's yell was not bad!

Altogether, however, the thing was not hearty; —
Even Eld—n allows we got on but so so;
And when next we attempt a No-Popery party,
We *must*, please your Highness, recruit *from below*.

But, hark, the young Black-leg is cracking his whip —
Excuse me, Great Sir — there's no time to be civil; —
The next opportunity shan't be let slip,
But, till then,
I'm, in haste, your most dutiful
DEVIL.

July, 1826.

THE MILLENNIUM.

SUGGESTED BY THE LATE WORK OF THE REVEREND MR. IRV—NG "ON PROPHECY."

1826.

A MILLENNIUM at hand! — I'm delighted to hear it —
As matters, both public and private, now go,
With multitudes round us all starving, or near it,
A good rich Millennium will come *à propos*.

Only think, Master Fred, what delight to behold,
Instead of thy bankrupt old City of Rags,
A bran-new Jerusalem, built all of gold,
Sound bullion throughout, from the roof to the flags —

A City, where wine and cheap corn[2] shall abound —
A celestial *Cocaigne*, on whose buttery shelves
We may swear the best things of this world will be found,
As your Saints seldom fail to take care of themselves!

Thanks, reverend expounder of raptures Elysian,[3]
Divine Squintifobus, who, plac'd within reach
Of two opposite worlds, by a twist of your vision,
Can cast, at the same time, a sly look at each; —

Thanks, thanks for the hope thou affordest, that we
May, ev'n in our own times, a Jubilee share,
Which so long has been promis'd by prophets like thee,
And so often postpon'd, we began to despair.

There was Whiston[4], who learnedly took Prince Eugene
For the man who must bring the Millennium about;
There's Faber, whose pious productions have been
All belied, ere his book's first edition was out; —

There was Counsellor Dobbs, too, an Irish M. P.,
Who discours'd on the subject with signal *éclat*,
And, each day of his life, sat expecting to see
A Millennium break out in the town of Armagh![5]

There was also — but why should I burden my lay
With your Brotherses, Southcotes, and names less deserving,
When all past Millenniums henceforth must give way
To the last new Millennium of Orator Irv—ng.

Go on, mighty man, — doom them all to the shelf, —
And when next thou with Prophecy troublest thy sconce,
Oh forget not, I pray thee, to prove that thyself
Art the Beast (Chapter iv.) that sees nine ways at once.

THE THREE DOCTORS.

Doctoribus lætamur tribus.

1826.

THOUGH many great Doctors there be,
There are three that all Doctors out-top,
Doctor Eady, that famous M. D.,
Doctor S—th—y, and dear Doctor Slop.[6]

[1] This reverend gentleman distinguished himself at the Reading election.

[2] "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny." — *Rev.* vi.

[3] See the oration of this reverend gentleman, where he describes the connubial joys of Paradise, and paints the angels hovering round "each happy fair."

[4] When Whiston presented to Prince Eugene the Essay in which he attempted to connect his victories over the Turks with Revelation, the Prince is said to have replied, that "he was not aware he had ever had the honour of being known to St. John."

[5] Mr. Dobbs was a member of the Irish Parliament, and, on all other subjects but the Millennium, a very sensible person: he chose Armagh as the scene of his Millennium, on account of the name Armageddon, mentioned in Revelation."

[6] The editor of the Morning Herald, so nick-named.

The purger — the proser — the bard —
All quacks in a different style;
Doctor S—th—y writes books by the yard,
Doctor Eady writes puffs by the mile![1]

Doctor Slop, in no merit outdone
By his scribbling or physicking brother,
Can dose us with stuff like the one,
Ay, and *doze* us with stuff like the other.

Doctor Eady good company keeps
With "No Popery" scribes on the walls;
Doctor S—th—y as gloriously sleeps
With "No Popery" scribes, on the stalls.

Doctor Slop, upon subjects divine,
Such bedlamite slaver lets drop,
That, if Eady should take the *mad* line,
He'll be sure of a patient in Slop.

Seven millions of Papists, no less,
Doctor S—th—y attacks, like a Turk;[2]
Doctor Eady, less bold, I confess,
Attacks but his maid-of all-work.[3]

Doctor S—th—y, for *his* grand attack,
Both a laureate and pensioner is;
While poor Doctor Eady, alack,
Has been *had up* to Bow-street, for his!

And truly, the law does so blunder,
That, though little blood has been spilt, he
May probably suffer as, under
The *Chalking* Act, *known* to be guilty.

So much for the merits sublime
(With whose catalogue ne'er should I stop)
Of the three greatest lights of our time,
Doctor Eady, and S—th—y, and Slop!

Should you ask me, to *which* of the three
Great Doctors the preference should fall,
As a matter of course, I agree
Doctor Eady must go to *the wall.*

But as S—th—y with laurels is crown'd,
And Slop with a wig and a tail is,
Let Eady's bright temples be bound
With a swingeing "Corona *Muralis!*"[4]

[1] Alluding to the display of this doctor's name, in chalk, on all the walls round the metropolis.

[2] This seraphic doctor, in the preface to his last work (*Vindiciæ Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ*), is pleased to anathematize not only all Catholics, but all advocates of Catholics: — "They have for their immediate allies (he says) every faction that is banded against the State; every demagogue, every irreligious and seditious journalist, every open and every insidious enemy to Monarchy and to Christianity."

[3] See the late accounts in the newspapers of the appearance of this gentleman at one of the Police-offices, in consequence of an alleged assault on his "maid-of-all-work."

[4] A crown granted as a reward among the Romans to persons who performed any extraordinary exploits upon *walls*, such as scaling them, battering them, &c. — No doubt, writing upon them, to the extent Dr. Eady does, would equally establish a claim to the honour.

EPITAPH ON A TUFT-HUNTER.

Lament, lament, Sir Isaac Heard,
Put mourning round thy page, Debrett,
For here lies one, who ne'er preferr'd
A Viscount to a Marquis yet.

Beside him place the God of Wit,
Before him Beauty's rosiest girls,
Apollo for a *star* he'd quit,
And Love's own sister for an Earl's.

Did niggard fate no peers afford,
He took, of course, to peers' relations;
And, rather than not sport a Lord,
Put up with even the last creations.

Even Irish names, could he but tag 'em
With "Lord" and "Duke," were sweet to call;
And, at a pinch, Lord Ballyraggum
Was better than no Lord at all.

Heaven grant him now some noble nook,
For, rest his soul! he'd rather be
Genteelly damn'd beside a Duke,
Than sav'd in vulgar company.

ODE TO A HAT.

——— "altum
Ædificat caput." Juvenal.

1826.

Hail, reverend Hat! — sublime 'mid all
The minor felts that round thee grovel;—
Thou, that the Gods "a Delta" call,
While meaner mortals call thee "shovel."

When on thy shape (like pyramid,
Cut horizontally in two)[5]
I raptur'd gaze, what dreams, unbid,
Of stalls and mitres bless my view!

[5] So described by a Reverend Historian of the Church: — "A Delta hat, like the horizontal section of a pyramid." — Grant's *History of the English Church.*

That brim of brims, so sleekly good—
Not flapp'd, like dull Wesleyans', down,
But looking (as all churchmen's should)
Devoutly upward—towards the *crown*.

Gods! when I gaze upon that brim,
So redolent of Church all over,
What swarms of Tithes, in vision dim,—
Some pig-tail'd, some like cherubim,
With ducklings' wings—around it hover!
Tenths of all dead and living things,
That Nature into being brings,
From calves and corn to chitterlings.

Say, holy Hat, that hast, of cocks,
The very cock most orthodox,
To *which*, of all the well-fed throng
Of Zion[1], joy'st thou to belong?
Thou'rt *not* Sir Harcourt Lees's—no—
For hats grow like the heads that wear 'em;
And hats, on heads like his, would grow
Particularly *harum-scarum*.
Who knows but thou may'st deck the pate
Of that fam'd Doctor Ad—mth—te,
(The reverend rat, whom we saw stand
On his hind-legs in Westmoreland,)
Who chang'd so quick from *blue* to *yellow*,
And would from *yellow* back to *blue*,
And back again, convenient fellow,
If 'twere his interest so to do.

Or, haply, smartest of triangles,
Thou art the hat of Doctor Ow—n;
The hat that, to his vestry wrangles,
That venerable priest doth go in,—
And, then and there, amid the stare
Of all St. Olave's, takes the chair,
And quotes, with phiz right orthodox,
The' example of his reverend brothers,
To prove that priests all fleece their flocks,
And *he* must fleece as well as others.

Blest Hat! (whoe'er thy lord may be)
Thus low I take off mine to thee,
The homage of a layman's *castor*,
To the spruce *delta* of his pastor.
Oh mayst thou be, as thou proceedest,
Still smarter cock'd, still brush'd the brighter,
Till, bowing all the way, thou leadest
Thy sleek possessor to a mitre!

[1] Archbishop Magee affectionately calls the Church Establishment of Ireland "the little Zion."

[2] A distribution was made of the Emperor Alexander's military wardrobe by his successor.

NEWS FOR COUNTRY COUSINS.

1826.

Dear Coz, as I know neither you nor Miss Draper,
When Parliament's up, ever take in a paper,
But trust for your news to such stray odds and ends
As you chance to pick up from political friends—
Being one of this well-inform'd class, I sit down
To transmit you the last newest news that's in town.

As to Greece and Lord Cochrane, things couldn't look better—
His Lordship (who promises now to fight faster)
Has just taken Rhodes, and despatch'd off a letter
To Daniel O'Connell, to make him Grand Master;
Engaging to change the old name, if he can,
From the Knights of St. John to the Knights of St. Dan;—
Or, if Dan should prefer (as a still better whim)
Being made the Colossus, 'tis all one to him.

From Russia the last accounts are that the Czar—
Most generous and kind, as all sovereigns are,
And whose first princely act (as you know, I suppose)
Was to give away all his late brother's old clothes—[2]
Is now busy collecting, with brotherly care,
The late Emperor's nightcaps, and thinks of bestowing
One nightcap apiece (if he has them to spare)
On all the distinguish'd old ladies now going.
(While I write, an arrival from Riga—the "Brothers"—
Having nightcaps on board for Lord Eld—n and others.)

Last advices from India—Sir Archy, 'tis thought,
Was near catching a Tartar (the first ever caught
In N. Lat. 21.)—and his Highness Burmese,
Being very hard press'd to shell out the rupees,
And not having rhino sufficient, they say, meant,
To pawn his august Golden Foot[3] for the payment.
(How lucky for monarchs, that thus, when they choose,
Can establish a *running* account with the Jews!)
The security being what Rothschild calls "goot,"
A loan will be shortly, of course, set *on foot*;
The parties are Rothschild, A. Baring and Co.
With three other great pawnbrokers: each takes a toe,

[3] This potentate styles himself the Monarch of the Golden Foot.

And engages (lest Gold-foot should give us *leg*-bail,
As he did once before) to pay down *on the nail.*

This is all for the present—what vile pens and paper!
Yours truly, dear Cousin—best love to Miss Draper.

September, 1826.

A VISION.

BY THE AUTHOR OF CHRISTABEL.

"UP!" said the Spirit, and, ere I could pray
One hasty orison, whirl'd me away
To a Limbo, lying—I wist not where—
Above or below, in earth or air;
For it glimmer'd o'er with a *doubtful* light,
One couldn't say whether 'twas day or night;
And 'twas crost by many a mazy track,
One didn't know how to get on or back;
And I felt like a needle that's going astray
(With its *one* eye out) through a bundle of hay;
When the Spirit he grinn'd, and whisper'd me,
"Thou'rt now in the Court of Chancery!"

Around me flitted unnumber'd swarms
Of shapeless, bodiless, tailless forms;
(Like bottled-up babes, that grace the room
Of that worthy knight, Sir Everard Home)—
All of them, things half-kill'd in rearing;
Some were lame—some wanted *hearing;*
Some had through half a century run,
Though they hadn't a leg to stand upon.
Others, more merry, as just beginning,
Around on a *point of law* were spinning;
Or balanc'd aloft, 'twixt *Bill* and *Answer*,
Lead at each end, like a tight-rope dancer.
Some were so *cross*, that nothing could please 'em;—
Some gulph'd down *affidavits* to ease 'em;—
All were in motion, yet never a one,
Let it *move* as it might, could ever move *on.*
"These," said the Spirit, "you plainly see,
"Are what they call suits in Chancery!"

I heard a loud screaming of old and young,
Like a chorus by fifty Vellutis sung;
Or an Irish Dump ("the words by Moore")
At an amateur concert scream'd in score;
So harsh on my ear that wailing fell
Of the wretches who in this Limbo dwell!
It seem'd like the dismal symphony
Of the shapes Æneas in hell did see;
Or those frogs, whose legs a barbarous cook
Cut off, and left the frogs in the brook,
To cry all night, till life's last dregs,
"Give us our legs!—give us our legs!"
Touch'd with the sad and sorrowful scene,
I ask'd what all this yell might mean,
When the Spirit replied, with a grin of glee,
"'Tis the cry of the Suitors in Chancery!"

I look'd, and I saw a wizard rise,[1]
With a wig like a cloud before men's eyes.
In his aged hand he held a wand,
Wherewith he beckon'd his embryo band,
And they mov'd and mov'd, as he wav'd it o'er,
But they never got on one inch the more.
And still they kept limping to and fro,
Like Ariels round old Prospero—
Saying, "Dear Master, let us go,"
But still old Prospero answer'd "No."
And I heard, the while, that wizard elf
Muttering, muttering spells to himself,
While o'er as many old papers he turn'd,
As Hume e'er mov'd for, or Omar burn'd.
He talk'd of his virtue—"though some, less nice,
(He own'd with a sigh) preferr'd his *Vice*"—
And he said, "I think"—"I doubt"—"I hope,"
Call'd God to witness, and damn'd the Pope;
With many more sleights of tongue and hand
I couldn't, for the soul of me, understand.
Amaz'd and pos'd, I was just about
To ask his name, when the screams without,
The merciless clack of the imps within,
And that conjuror's mutterings, made such a din,
That, startled, I woke—leap'd up in my bed—
Found the Spirit, the imps, and the conjuror fled,
And bless'd my stars, right pleas'd to see,
That I wasn't, as yet, in Chancery.

THE PETITION OF THE ORANGEMEN OF IRELAND.

1826.

To the people of England, the humble Petition
Of Ireland's disconsolate Orangemen, showing—
That sad, very sad, is our present condition;—
Our jobbing all gone, and our noble selves going;—

That, forming one seventh, within a few fractions,
Of Ireland's seven millions of hot heads and hearts,

[1] The Lord Chancellor Eld—n.

We hold it the basest of all base transactions
To keep us from murd'ring the other six parts;—

That, as to laws made for the good of the many,
We humbly suggest there is nothing less true;
As all human laws (and our own, more than any,)
Are made *by* and *for* a particular few;—

That much it delights every true Orange brother,
To see you, in England, such ardour evince,
In discussing *which* sect most tormented the other,
And burn'd with most *gusto*, some hundred years since;—

That we love to behold, while old England grows, faint,
Messrs. Southey and Butler nigh coming to blows,
To decide whether Dunstan, that strong-bodied Saint,
Ever truly and really pull'd the Devil's nose;

Whether t'other Saint, Dominic, burnt the Devil's paw—
Whether Edwy intrigued with Elgiva's old mother—[1]
And many such points, from which Southey can draw
Conclusions most apt for our hating each other.

That 'tis very well known this devout Irish nation
Has now, for some ages, gone happily on,
Believing in two kinds of Substantiation,
One party in *Trans* and the other in *Con*;[2]

That we, your petitioning *Cons*, have, in right
Of the said monosyllable, ravag'd the lands,
And embezzled the goods, and annoy'd, day and night.
Both the bodies and souls of the sticklers for *Trans*;—

That we trust to Peel, Eldon, and other such sages,
For keeping us still in the same state of mind;
Pretty much as the world used to be in those ages,
When still smaller syllables madden'd mankind;—

When the words *ex* and *per*[3] serv'd as well, to annoy
One's neighbours and friends with, as *con* and *trans* now;

And Christians, like S—th—y, who stickled for *oi*,
Cut the throats of all Christians who stickled for *ou*.[4]

That, relying on England, whose kindness already
So often has help'd us to play this game o'er,
We have got our red coats and our carabines ready,
And wait but the word to show sport, as before.

That, as to the expence—the few millions, or so,
Which for all such diversions John Bull has to pay—
'Tis, at least, a great comfort to John Bull to know,
That to Orangemen's pockets 'twill all find its way.
For which your petitioners ever will pray,
&c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

COTTON AND CORN.

A DIALOGUE.

Said Cotton to Corn, t'other day,
As they met and exchang'd a salute—
(Squire Corn in his carriage so gay,
Poor Cotton, half famish'd, on foot):

"Great Squire, if it isn't uncivil
"To hint at starvation before you,
"Look down on a poor hungry devil,
"And give him some bread, I implore you!"

Quoth Corn then, in answer to Cotton,
Perceiving he meant to make *free*—
"Low fellow, you've surely forgotten
"The distance between you and me!

"To expect that we, Peers of high birth,
"Should waste our illustrious acres,
"For no other purpose on earth
"Than to fatten curst calico-makers!—

"That Bishops to bobbins should bend—
"Should stoop from their Bench's sublimity,
"Great dealers in *lawn*, to befriend
"Such contemptible dealers in dimity!

[1] To such important discussions as these the greater part of Dr. Southey's *Vindiciæ Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ* is devoted.

[2] Consubstantiation—the true Reformed belief; at least, the belief of Luther, and, as Mosheim asserts, of Melancthon also.

[3] When John of Ragusa went to Constantinople (at the time this dispute between "ex" and "per" was going on), he found the Turks, we are told, "laughing at the Christians for being divided by two such insignificant particles."

[4] The Arian controversy.—Before that time, says Hooker, "in order to be a sound believing Christian, men were not curious what syllables or particles of speech they used."

" No—vile Manufacture! ne'er harbour
" A hope to be fed at our boards;—
" Base offspring of Arkwright the barber,
" What claim canst *thou* have upon Lords?

" No—thanks to the taxes and debt,
" And the triumph of paper o'er guineas,
" Our race of Lord Jemmys, as yet,
" May defy your whole rabble of *Jennys!*"

So saying—whip, crack, and away
Went Corn in his chaise through the throng,
So headlong, I heard them all say,
" Squire Corn would be *down*, before long."

THE CANONIZATION OF SAINT B—TT—RW—RTH.

" A Christian of the best edition." RABELAIS.

CANONIZE him!—yea, verily, we'll canonize him;
Though Cant is his hobby, and meddling his bliss,
Though sages may pity, and wits may despise him,
He'll ne'er make a bit the worse Saint for all this.

Descend, all ye Spirits, that ever yet spread
The dominion of Humbug o'er land and o'er sea,
Descend on our B—tt—rw—rth's biblical head,
Thrice-Great, Bibliopolist, Saint, and M. P.

Come, shade of Joanna, come down from thy sphere,
And bring little Shiloh—if 'tisn't too far—
Such a sight will to B—tt—rw—rth's bosom be dear,
His conceptions and *thine* being much on a par.

Nor blush, Saint Joanna, once more to behold
A world thou hast honour'd by cheating so many;
Thou'lt find still among us one Personage old,
Who also by tricks and the *Seals*[1] makes a penny.

Thou, too, of the Shakers, divine Mother Lee![2]
Thy smiles to beatified B—tt—rw—rth deign;
Two " lights of the Gentiles" are thou, Anne, and he,
One hallowing Fleet Street, and *t'other* Toad Lane![3]

The Heathen, we know, made their Gods out of wood,
And Saints may be fram'd of as handy materials;—
Old women and B—tt—rw—rths make just as good
As any the Pope ever *book'd* as Ethereals.

Stand forth, Man of Bibles!—not Mahomet's pigeon,
When, perch'd on the Koran, he dropp'd there, they say,
Strong marks of his faith, ever shed o'er religion
Such glory as B—tt—rw—rth sheds every day.

Great Galen of souls, with what vigour he crams
Down Erin's idolatrous throats, till they crack again,
Bolus on bolus, good man!—and then damns
Both their stomachs and souls, if they dare cast them back again.

How well might his shop—as a type representing
The creed of himself and his sanctified clan,
On its counter exhibit " the Art of Tormenting,"
Bound neatly, and letter'd " Whole Duty of Man!"

Canonize him!—by Judas, we *will* canonize him;
For Cant is his hobby, and twaddling his bliss;
And, though wise men may pity and wits may despise him,
He'll make but the better *shop*-saint for all this.

Call quickly together the whole tribe of Canters,
Convoke all the *serious* Tag-rag of the nation;
Bring Shakers and Snufflers and Jumpers and Ranters,
To witness their B—tt—rw—rth's Canonization!

Yea, humbly I've ventur'd his merits to paint,
Yea, feebly have tried all his gifts to portray,
And they form a sum-total for making a Saint,
That the Devil's own Advocate could not gainsay.

[1] A great part of the income of Joanna Southcott arose from the Seals of the Lord's protection which she sold to her followers.

[2] Mrs. Anne Lee, the " chosen vessel " of the Shakers, and " Mother of all the children of regeneration."

[3] Toad Lane, in Manchester, where Mother Lee was born. In her " Address to Young Believers," she says, that " it is a matter of no importance with them from whence the means of their deliverance come, whether from a stable in Bethlehem, or from Toad Lane, Manchester."

Jump high, all ye Jumpers, ye Ranters all roar,
While B—tt—rw—rth's spirit, uprais'd from your eyes,
Like a kite made of foolscap, in glory shall soar,
With a long tail of rubbish behind, to the skies!

AN INCANTATION.

SUNG BY THE BUBBLE SPIRIT.

Air. — *Come with me, and we will go*
Where the rocks of coral grow.

COME with me, and we will blow
Lots of bubbles, as we go;
Bubbles, bright as ever Hope
Drew from fancy — or from soap;
Bright as e'er the South Sea sent
From its frothy element!
Come with me, and we will blow
Lots of bubbles, as we go.
Mix the lather, Johnny W—lks,
Thou, who rhym'st so well to bilks;[1]
Mix the lather — who can be
Fitter for such task than thee,
Great M. P. for *Suds*bury!

Now the frothy charm is ripe,
Puffing Peter[2], bring thy pipe,—
Thou, whom ancient Coventry
Once so dearly lov'd, that she
Knew not which to her was sweeter,
Peeping Tom or Puffing Peter;—
Puff the bubbles high in air,
Puff thy best to keep them there.

Bravo, bravo, Peter M—re!
Now the rainbow humbugs[3] soar,
Glitt'ring all with golden hues,
Such as haunt the dreams of Jews;—
Some, reflecting mines that lie
Under Chili's glowing sky,
Some, those virgin pearls that sleep
Cloister'd in the southern deep;
Others, as if lent a ray
From the streaming Milky Way,
Glist'ning o'er with curds and whey
From the cows of Alderney.

Now's the moment — who shall first
Catch the bubbles, ere they burst?
Run, ye Squires, ye Viscounts, run,
Br—gd—n, T—ynh—m, P—lm—t—n;—
John W—lks junior runs beside ye!
Take the good the knaves provide ye![4]
See, with upturn'd eyes and hands,
Where the *Share*man[5], Br—gd—n, stands,
Gaping for the froth to fall
Down his gullet — *lye* and all.
See! ——
But, hark, my time is out —
Now, like some great water-spout,
Scatter'd by the cannon's thunder,
Burst, ye bubbles, all asunder!

[*Here the stage darkens — a discordant crash is heard from the orchestra — the broken bubbles descend in a saponaceous but uncleanly mist over the heads of the Dramatis Personæ, and the scene drops, leaving the bubble-hunters —— all in the suds.*]

A DREAM OF TURTLE.

BY SIR W. CURTIS.

1826.

'TWAS evening time, in the twilight sweet
I sail'd along, when — whom should I meet
But a Turtle journeying o'er the sea,
"On the service of his Majesty."[6]

When spying him first through twilight dim,
I didn't know what to make of him;
But said to myself, as slow he plied
His fins, and roll'd from side to side
Conceitedly o'er the watery path —
"'Tis my Lord of St—w—ll taking a bath,
"And I hear him now, among the fishes,
"Quoting Vatel and Burgersdicius!"

[1] Strong indications of character may be sometimes traced in the rhymes to names. Marvell thought so, when he wrote

"Sir Edward Sutton,
The foolish Knight who rhymes to mutton."

[2] The member, during a long period, for Coventry.

[3] An humble imitation of one of our modern poets, who, in a poem against War, after describing the splendid habiliments of the soldier, thus apostrophizes him — "thou rainbow ruffian!"

[4] "Lovely Thais sits beside thee:
Take the good the Gods provide thee."

[5] So called by a sort of Tuscan dulcification of the *ch*, in the word "Chairman."

[6] We are told that the passport of this grand diplomatic Turtle (sent by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs to a certain noble envoy) described him as "on his majesty's service."

—— dapibus supremi
Grata testudo Jovis.

But, no—'twas, indeed, a Turtle, wide
And plump as ever these eyes descried;
A Turtle, juicy as ever yet
Glued up the lips of a Baronet!
And much did it grieve my soul to see
That an animal of such dignity,
Like an absentee abroad should roam,
When he *ought* to stay and be ate at home.

But now "a change came o'er my dream,"
Like the magic lantern's shifting slider;—
I look'd, and saw, by the evening beam,
On the back of that Turtle sat a rider—
A goodly man, with an eye so merry,
I knew 'twas our Foreign Secretary,[1]
Who there, at his ease, did sit and smile,
Like Waterton on his crocodile;[2]
Cracking such jokes, at every motion,
As made the Turtle squeak with glee,
And own they gave him a lively notion
Of what his *forc'd*-meat balls would be.

So, on the Sec. in his glory went,
Over that briny element,
Waving his hand, as he took farewell,
With graceful air, and bidding me tell
Inquiring friends that the Turtle and he
Were gone on a foreign embassy—
To soften the heart of a *Diplomate*,
Who is known to doat upon verdant fat,
And to let admiring Europe see,
That *calipash* and *calipee*
Are the English forms of Diplomacy.

THE DONKY AND HIS PANNIERS.

A FABLE.

——— "fessus jam sudat asellus,
"Parce illi; vestrum delicium est asinus."
VIRGIL. *Copa.*

A DONKY, whose talent for burdens was wondrous,
So much that you'd swear he rejoic'd in a load,
One day had to jog under panniers so pond'rous,
That—down the poor Donky fell smack on the road!

His owners and drivers stood round in amaze—
What! Neddy, the patient, the prosperous Neddy,
So easy to drive, through the dirtiest ways,
For every description of job-work so ready!

One driver (whom Ned might have "hail'd" as a "brother"[3])
Had just been proclaiming his Donky's renown
For vigour, for spirit, for one thing or other—
When, lo, 'mid his praises, the Donky came down!

But, how to upraise him?—*one* shouts, *t'other* whistles,
While Jenky, the Conjurer, wisest of all,
Declar'd that an "over-production of thistles—[4]
(Here Ned gave a stare)—"was the cause of his fall."

Another wise Solomon cries, as he passes—
"There, let him alone, and the fit will soon cease;
"The beast has been fighting with other jack-asses,
"And this is his mode of '*transition to peace*.'"

Some look'd at his hoofs, and, with learned grimaces,
Pronounc'd that too long without shoes he had gone—
"Let the blacksmith provide him a *sound metal basis*
(The wise-acres said), "and he's sure to jog on."

Meanwhile, the poor Neddy, in torture and fear,
Lay under his panniers, scarce able to groan;
And—what was still dolefuller—lending an ear
To advisers, whose ears were a match for his own.

At length, a plain rustic, whose wit went so far
As to see others' folly, roar'd out, as he pass'd—
"Quick—off with the panniers, all dolts as ye are,
"Or, your prosperous Neddy will soon kick his last!"

October, 1826.

ODE TO THE SUBLIME PORTE.

1826.

GREAT Sultan, how wise are thy state compositions!
And oh, above all, I admire that Decree,
In which thou command'st, that all *she* politicians
Shall forthwith be strangled and cast in the sea.

[1] Mr. Canning.

[2] *Wanderings in South America.* "It was the first and last time (says Mr. Waterton) I was ever on a crocodile's back."

[3] Alluding to an early poem of Mr. Coleridge's, addressed to an Ass, and beginning, I hail thee, brother!"

[4] A certain country gentleman having said in the House, "that we must return at last to the food of our ancestors," somebody asked Mr. T. "what food the gentleman meant?"—"Thistles, I suppose," answered Mr. T.

'Tis my fortune to know a lean Benthamite spinster—
A maid, who her faith in old Jeremy puts;
Who talks, with a lisp, of "the last new West*minster*,"
And hopes you're delighted with "Mill upon Gluts;"

Who tells you how clever one Mr. Fun-blank is,
How charming his Articles 'gainst the Nobility;—
And assures you that even a gentleman's rank is,
In Jeremy's school, of no sort of *utility*.

To see her, ye Gods, a new Number perusing —
ART. 1. "On the *Needle*'s variations," by Pl—e;[1]
ART. 2.—By her fav'rite Fun-blank[2]—so amusing!
"Dear man! he makes Poetry quite a *Law* case."

ART. 3. — "Upon Fallacies," Jeremy's own —
(Chief Fallacy being, his hope to find readers);—
ART. 4. — "Upon Honesty," author unknown;—
ART. 5. — (by the young Mr. M——) "Hints to Breeders."

Oh, Sultan, oh, Sultan, though oft for the bag
And the bowstring, like thee, I am tempted to call—
Though drowning's too good for each blue-stocking hag,
I would bag this *she* Benthamite first of them all!

And, lest she should ever again lift her head
From the watery bottom, her clack to renew —
As a clog, as a sinker, far better than lead,
I would hang round her neck her own darling Review.

CORN AND CATHOLICS.

Utrum horum
Dirius *borum?* *Incerti Auctoris.*

WHAT! *still* those two infernal questions,
That with our meals, our slumbers mix —
That spoil our tempers and digestions —
Eternal Corn and Catholics!

Gods! were there ever two such bores?
Nothing else talk'd of night or morn —
Nothing *in* doors, or *out* of doors,
But endless Catholics and Corn!

Never was such a brace of pests —
While Ministers, still worse than either,
Skill'd but in feathering their nests,
Plague us with both, and settle neither.

So addled in my cranium meet
Popery and Corn, that oft I doubt,
Whether, this year, 'twas bonded Wheat,
Or bonded Papists, they let out.

Here, landlords, *here*, polemics nail you,
Arm'd with all rubbish they can rake up;
Prices and *Texts* at once assail you —
From Daniel *these*, and *those* from Jacob.[3]

And when you sleep, with head still torn
Between the two, their shapes you mix,
Till sometimes Catholics seem Corn —
Then Corn again seems Catholics.

Now, Dantzic wheat before you floats —
Now, Jesuits from California —
Now Ceres, link'd with Titus *Oats*,
Comes dancing through the "Porta *Corn*ea."[4]

Oft, too, the Corn grows animate,
And a whole crop of heads appears,
Like Papists, *bearding* Church and State —
Themselves, together *by the ears!*

In short, these torments never cease;
And oft I wish myself transferr'd off
To some far, lonely land of peace,
Where Corn or Papists ne'er were heard of.

Yes, waft me, Parry, to the Pole;
For — if my fate is to be chosen
'Twixt bores and icebergs — on my soul,
I'd rather, of the two, be frozen!

A CASE OF LIBEL.

"The greater the truth, the worse the libel."

A CERTAIN Sprite, who dwells below,
('Twere a libel, perhaps, to mention where,)
Came up *incog.*, some years ago,
To try, for a change, the London air,

[1] A celebrated political tailor.

[2] This pains-taking gentleman has been at the trouble of counting, with the assistance of Cocker, the number of metaphors in Moore's "Life of Sheridan," and has found them to amount, as nearly as possible, to 2235 — and some *fractions*.

[3] Author of the late Report on Foreign Corn.

[4] The Horn Gate, through which the ancients supposed all true dreams (such as those of the Popish Plot, &c.) to pass.

So well he look'd, and dress'd, and talk'd,
And hid his tail and horns so handy,
You'd hardly have known him as he walk'd,
From C——e, or any other Dandy.

(His horns, it seems, are made t'unscrew;
So, he has but to take them out of the socket,
And—just as some fine husbands do—
Conveniently clap them into his pocket.)

In short, he look'd extremely natty,
And even contriv'd—to his own great wonder—
By dint of sundry scents from Gattie,
To keep the sulphurous *hogo* under.

And so my gentleman hoof'd about,
Unknown to all but a chosen few
At White's and Crockford's, where, no doubt,
He had many *post-obits* falling due.

Alike a gamester and a wit,
At night he was seen with Crockford's crew,
At morn with learned dames would sit—
So pass'd his time 'twixt *black* and *blue*.

Some wish'd to make him an M. P.,
But, finding W—lks was also one, he
Swore in a rage, "he'd be d—d, if he
"Would ever sit in one house with Johnny."

At length, as secrets travel fast,
And devils, whether he or she,
Are sure to be found out at last,
The affair got wind most rapidly.

The Press, the impartial Press, that snubs
Alike a fiend's or an angel's capers—
Miss Paton's soon as Beelzebub's—
Fir'd off a squib in the morning papers:

"We warn good men to keep aloof
"From a grim old Dandy, seen about,
"With a fire-proof wig, and a cloven hoof
"Through a neat-cut Hoby smoking out.

Now,—the Devil being a gentleman,
Who piques himself on well-bred dealings,—
You may guess, when o'er these lines he ran,
How much they hurt and shock'd his feelings.

Away he posts to a Man of Law,
And 'twould make you laugh could you have seen 'em,
As paw shook hand, and hand shook paw,
And 'twas "hail, good fellow, well met," between 'em.

Straight an indictment was preferr'd—
And much the Devil enjoy'd the jest,
When, asking about the Bench, he heard
That, of all the Judges, his own was *Best*.[1]

In vain Defendant proffer'd proof
That Plaintiff's self was the Father of Evil—
Brought Hoby forth, to swear to the hoof,
And Stultz to speak to the tail of the Devil.

The Jury (saints, all snug and rich,
And readers of virtuous Sunday papers)
Found for the plaintiff—on hearing which
The Devil gave one of his loftiest capers.

For oh, 'twas nuts to the Father of Lies
(As this wily fiend is nam'd in the Bible)
To find it settled by laws so wise,
That the greater the truth, the worse the libel!

LITERARY ADVERTISEMENT.

WANTED—Authors of all-work, to job for the season,
No matter which party, so faithful to neither;
Good hacks, who, if pos'd for a rhyme or a reason,
Can manage, like ******, to do without either.

If in gaol, all the better for out-o'-door topics;
Your gaol is for Travellers a charming retreat;
They can take a day's rule for a trip to the Tropics,
And sail round the world, at their ease, in the Fleet.

For a Dramatist, too, the most useful of schools—
He can study high life in the King's Bench community;
Aristotle could scarce keep him more *within rules*,
And of *place* he, at least, must adhere to the *unity*.

Any lady or gentleman, come to an age
To have good "Reminiscences" (three-score or higher),
Will meet with encouragement—so much, *per* page,
And the spelling and grammar both found by the buyer.

No matter with *what* their remembrance is stock'd,
So they'll only remember the *quantum* desir'd;—
Enough to fill handsomely Two Volumes, *oct.*,
Price twenty-four shillings, is all that's requir'd.

[1] A celebrated Judge, so named.

They may treat us, like Kelly, with old *jeu-d'esprits*,
Like Dibdin, may tell of each farcical frolic;
Or kindly inform us, like Madame Genlis,[1]
That gingerbread-cakes always give them the colic.

Wanted, also, a new stock of Pamphlets on Corn,
By "Farmers" and "Landholders"—(worthies whose lands
Enclos'd all in bow-pots, their attics adorn,
Or, whose share of the soil may be seen on their hands).

No-Popery Sermons, in ever so dull a vein,
Sure of a market;—should they, too, who pen 'em,
Be renegade Papists, like Murtagh O'S—ll—v—n,[2]
Something *extra* allow'd for the' additional venom.

Funds, Physic, Corn, Poetry, Boxing, Romance,
All excellent subjects for turning a penny;—
To write upon *all* is an author's sole chance
For attaining, at last, the least knowledge of *any*.

Nine times out of ten, if his *title* is good,
The material *within* of small consequence is;—
Let him only write fine, and, if not understood,
Why—that's the concern of the reader, not his.

Nota Bene—an Essay, now printing, to show,
That Horace (as clearly as words could express it)
Was for taxing the Fund-holders, ages ago,
When he wrote thus—"Quodcunque *in Fund is*, *assess it*."[3]

THE IRISH SLAVE.[4]

1827.

I HEARD, as I lay, a wailing sound,
"He is dead—he is dead," the rumour flew;
And I rais'd my chain, and turn'd me round,
And ask'd, through the dungeon-window, "Who?"

I saw my livid tormentors pass;
Their grief 'twas bliss to hear and see!
For, never came joy to them, alas,
That didn't bring deadly bane to me.

Eager I look'd through the mist of night,
And ask'd, "What foe of my race hath died?
"Is it he—that Doubter of law and right,
"Whom nothing but wrong could e'er decide—

"Who, long as he sees but wealth to win,
"Hath never yet felt a qualm or doubt
"What suitors for justice he'd keep in,
"Or what suitors for freedom he'd shut out—

"Who, a clog for ever on Truth's advance,
"Hangs round her (like the Old Man of the Sea
"Round Sinbad's neck[5]), nor leaves a chance
"Of shaking him off—is't he? is't he?"

Ghastly my grim tormentors smil'd,
And thrusting me back to my den of woe,
With a laughter even more fierce and wild
Than their funeral howling, answer'd "No."

But the cry still pierc'd my prison-gate,
And again I ask'd, "What scourge is gone?
"Is it he—that Chief, so coldly great,
"Whom Fame unwillingly shines upon—

"Whose name is one of the' ill-omen'd words
"They link with hate, on his native plains;
"And why?—they lent him hearts and swords,
"And he, in return, gave scoffs and chains!

"Is it he? is it he?" I loud inquir'd,
When, hark!—there sounded a Royal knell;
And I knew what spirit had just expir'd,
And, slave as I was, my triumph fell.

He had pledg'd a hate unto me and mine,
He had left to the future nor hope nor choice,
But seal'd that hate with a Name Divine,
And he now was dead, and—I *couldn't* rejoice!

He had fann'd afresh the burning brands
Of a bigotry waxing cold and dim;
He had arm'd anew my torturers' hands,
And *them* did I curse—but sigh'd for him.

For, *his* was the error of head, not heart;
And—oh, how beyond the ambushed foe,
Who to enmity adds the traitor's part,
And carries a smile, with a curse below!

[1] This lady also favours us, in her Memoirs, with the address of those apothecaries, who have, from time to time, given her pills that agreed with her; always desiring that the pills should be ordered "*comme pour elle*."

[2] A gentleman, who distinguished himself by his evidence before the Irish Committees.

[3] According to the common reading, "quodcunque infundis, acescit."

[4] Written on the death of the Duke of York.

[5] "You fell, said they, into the hands of the Old Man of the Sea, and are the first who ever escaped strangling by his malicious tricks."—*Story of Sinbad*.

If ever a heart made bright amends
For the fatal fault of an erring head—
Go, learn *his* fame from the lips of friends,
In the orphan's tear be his glory read.

A Prince without pride, a man without guile,
To the last unchanging, warm, sincere,
For Worth he had ever a hand and smile,
And for Misery ever his purse and tear.

Touch'd to the heart by that solemn toll,
I calmly sunk in my chains again;
While, still as I said, "Heaven rest his soul!"
My mates of the dungeon sigh'd "Amen!"

January, 1827.

ODE TO FERDINAND.

1827.

QUIT the sword, thou King of men,
Grasp the needle once again;
Making petticoats is far
Safer sport than making war;
Trimming is a better thing,
Than the *being* trimm'd, oh King!
Grasp the needle bright with which
Thou didst for the Virgin stitch
Garment, such as ne'er before
Monarch stitch'd or Virgin wore.
Not for her, oh semster nimble!
Do I now invoke thy thimble;
Not for her thy wanted aid is,
But for certain grave old ladies,
Who now sit in England's cabinet,
Waiting to be clothed in tabinet,
Or whatever choice *étoffe* is
Fit for Dowagers in office.
First, thy care, oh King, devote
To Dame Eld—n's petticoat.
Make it of that silk, whose dye
Shifts for ever to the eye,
Just as if it hardly knew
Whether to be pink or blue.
Or—material fitter yet—
If thou couldst a remnant get
Of that stuff, with which, of old,
Sage Penelope, we're told,
Still by doing and undoing,
Kept her *suitors* always wooing—
That's the stuff which I pronounce, is
Fittest for Dame Eld—n's flounces.

After this, we'll try thy hand,
Mantua-making Ferdinand,
For old Goody W—stm—l—d;
One who loves, like Mother Cole,
Church and State with all her soul;
And has pass'd her life in frolics
Worthy of your Apostolics.
Choose, in dressing this old flirt,
Something that wo'n't show the dirt,
As, from habit, every minute
Goody W—stm—l—d is in it.

This is all I now shall ask,
Hie thee, monarch, to thy task;
Finish Eld—n's frills and borders,
Then return for further orders.
Oh what progress for our sake,
Kings in millinery make!
Ribands, garters, and such things,
Are supplied by *other* Kings,—
Ferdinand his rank denotes
By providing petticoats.

HAT VERSUS WIG.

1827.

"At the interment of the Duke of York, Lord Eld—n, in order to guard against the effects of the damp, stood upon his hat during the whole of the ceremony."

—— metus omnes et inexorabile fatum
Subjecit pedibus, strepitumque Acherontis avari.

TWIXT Eld—n's Hat and Eld—n's Wig
There lately rose an altercation,—
Each with its own importance big,
Disputing *which* most serves the nation.

Quoth Wig, with consequential air,
"Pooh! pooh! you surely can't design,
"My worthy beaver, to compare
"Your station in the state with mine.

"Who meets the learned legal crew?
"Who fronts the lordly Senate's pride?
"The Wig, the Wig, my friend—while you
"Hang dangling on some peg outside.

"Oh, 'tis the Wig, that rules, like Love,
"Senate and Court, with like *éclat*—
"And wards below, and lords above,
"For Law is Wig and Wig is Law![1]

[1] "Love rules the court, the camp, the grove,
And men below and gods above,
For Love is Heaven and Heaven is Love."—SCOTT.

" Who tried the long, *Long* W—LL—SLY suit,
" Which tried one's patience, in return?
" Not thou, oh Hat!—though, *could'st* thou do't,
" Of other *brims*[1] than thine thou'dst learn.

" 'Twas mine our master's toil to share;
" When, like 'Truepenny,' in the play,[2]
" He, every minute, cried out 'Swear,'
" And merrily to swear went they;—[3]

" When, loth poor W—LL—SL—Y to condemn, he
" With nice discrimination weigh'd,
" Whether 'twas only 'Hell and Jemmy,'
" Or 'Hell and Tommy' that he play'd.

" No, no, my worthy beaver, no—
" Though cheapen'd at the cheapest hatter's,
" And smart enough, as beavers go,
" Thou ne'er wert made for public matters."

Here Wig concluded his oration,
Looking, as wigs do, wondrous wise;
While thus, full cock'd for declamation,
The veteran Hat enrag'd replies:—

" Ha! dost thou then so soon forget
" What thou, what England owes to me?
" Ungrateful Wig!—when will a debt,
" So deep, so vast, be owed to thee?

" Think of that night, that fearful night,
" When, through the steaming vault below,
" Our master dar'd, in gout's despite,
" To venture his podagric toe!

" Who was it then, thou boaster, say,
" When thou had'st to thy box sneak'd off,
" Beneath his feet protecting lay,
" And sav'd him from a mortal cough?

" Think, if Catarrh had quench'd that sun,
" How blank this world had been to thee!
" Without that head to shine upon,
" Oh Wig, where would thy glory be?

" You, too, ye Britons,—had this hope
" Of Church and state been ravish'd from ye,
" Oh think, how Canning and the Pope
" Would then have play'd up 'Hell and Tommy!

" At sea, there's but a plank, they say,
" 'Twixt seamen and annihilation;
" A Hat, that awful moment, lay
" 'Twixt England and Emancipation!

" Oh!!!——"

At this "Oh!!!" *The Times'* Reporter
Was taken poorly, and retir'd;
Which made him cut Hat's rhetoric shorter,
Than justice to the case requir'd.

On his return, he found these shocks
Of eloquence all ended quite;
And Wig lay snoring in his box,
And hat was—hung up for the night.

THE PERIWINKLES AND THE LOCUSTS.

A SALMAGUNDIAN HYMN.

" To Panurge was assigned the Lairdship of Salmagundi, which was yearly worth 6,789,106,789 ryals, besides the revenue of the *Locusts* and *Periwinkles*, amounting one year with another to the value of 2,435,768," &c. &c.—RABELAIS.

" HURRA! hurra!" I heard them say,
And they cheer'd and shouted all the way,
As the Laird of Salmagundi went,
To open in state his Parliament.

The Salmagundians once were rich,
Or *thought* they were—no matter which—
For, every year, the Revenue[4]
From their Periwinkles larger grew?
And their rulers, skill'd in all the trick
And legerdemain of arithmetic,
Knew how to place 1, 2, 3, 4,
5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 and 10,
Such various ways, behind, before,
That they made a unit seem a score,
And prov'd themselves most wealthy men!
So, on they went, a prosperous crew,
The people wise, the rulers clever—
And God help those, like me and you,
Who dar'd to doubt (as some now do)
That the Periwinkle Revenue
Would thus go flourishing on for ever.

[1] " *Brim*—a naughty woman."—GROSE.
[2] " *Ghost* [beneath]. — Swear!
" *Hamlet.*—Ha, ha! say'st thou so? Art thou there, Truepenny? Come on."

[3] His Lordship's demand for fresh affidavits was incessant.
[4] Accented as in Swift's line—
" Not so a nation's revenues are paid."

"Hurra! hurra!" I heard them say,
And they cheer'd and shouted all the way,
As the Great Panurge in glory went
To open his own dear Parliament.

But folks at length began to doubt
What all this conjuring was about;
For, every day, more deep in debt
They saw their wealthy rulers get:—
"Let's look (said they) the items through,
"And see if what we're told be true
"Of our Periwinkle Revenue."
But, Lord! they found there wasn't a tittle
Of truth in aught they heard before;
For, they gain'd by Periwinkles little,
And lost by Locusts ten times more!
These Locusts are a lordly breed
Some Salmagundians love to feed.
Of all the beasts that ever were born,
Your Locust most delights in *corn*;
And, though his body be but small,
To fatten him takes the devil and all!
"Oh fie! oh fie!" was now the cry,
As they saw the gaudy show go by,
And the Laird of Salmagundi went
To open his Locust Parliament!

NEW CREATION OF PEERS.

BATCH THE FIRST.

"His 'prentice han'
He tried on man,
And then he made the lasses."

1827.

"And now," quoth the Minister, (eased of his panics,
And ripe for each pastime the summer affords,)
"Having had our full swing at destroying mechanics,
"By way of *set-off*, let us make a few Lords.

"'Tis pleasant — while nothing but mercantile fractures,
"Some simple, some *compound*, is dinn'd in our ears —
"To think that, though robb'd of all coarse manufactures,
"We still have our fine manufacture of Peers;—

"Those *Gobelin* productions, which Kings take a pride
"In engrossing the whole fabrication and trade of;
"Choice tapestry things, very grand on *one* side,
"But showing, on t'other, what rags they are made of."

The plan being fix'd, raw material was sought,—
No matter how middling, if Tory the creed be;
And first, to begin with, Squire W———, 'twas thought,
For a Lord was as raw a material as need be.

Next came, with his *penchant* for painting and pelf,
The tasteful Sir Charles [1], so renown'd, far and near,
For purchasing pictures, and selling himself—
And *both* (as the public well knows) very dear.

Beside him Sir John comes, with equal *éclat*, in;—
Stand forth, chosen pair, while for titles we measure ye;
Both connoisseur baronets, both fond of *drawing*,
Sir John, after nature, Sir Charles, on the Treasury.

But, bless us!—behold a new candidate come—
In his hand he upholds a prescription, new written;
He poiseth a pill-box 'twixt finger and thumb,
And he asketh a seat 'mong the Peers of Great Britain!!

"Forbid it," cried Jenky, "ye Viscounts, ye Earls!—
"Oh Rank, how thy glories would fall disenchanted,
"If coronets glisten'd with pills 'stead of pearls,
"And the strawberry-leaves were by rhubarb supplanted!

"No—ask it not, ask it not, dear Doctor H—l—f—rd—
"If nought but a Peerage can gladden thy life,
"And young Master H—lf—rd as yet is too small for't,
"Sweet Doctor, we'll make a *she* Peer of thy wife.

"Next to bearing a coronet on our *own* brows,
"Is to bask in its light from the brows of another;

[1] Created Lord F—rnb—gh.

"And grandeur o'er thee shall reflect from thy spouse,
"As o'er V—y F—tz—d 'twill shine through his mother."[1]

Thus ended the *First* Batch — and Jenky, much tir'd
(It being no joke to make Lords by the heap),
Took a large dram of ether — the same that inspir'd
His speech 'gainst the Papists — and pros'd off to sleep.

SPEECH ON THE UMBRELLA[2] QUESTION.

BY LORD ELD—N.

"Vos *inumbrelles* video."[3] — *Ex. Juvenil.* GEORGII CANNINGII.

1827.

My Lords, I'm accus'd of a trick that, God knows, is
The last into which, at my age, I could fall —
Of leading this grave House of Peers, by their noses,
Wherever I choose, princes, bishops, and all.

My Lords, on the question before us at present,
No doubt I shall hear, "'Tis that cursed old fellow,
"That bugbear of all that is lib'ral and pleasant,
"Who wo'n't let the Lords give the man his umbrella!"

God forbid that your Lordships should knuckle to me;
I am ancient — but were I as old as King Priam,
Not much, I confess, to your credit 'twould be,
To mind such a twaddling old Trojan as I am.

I own, of our Protestant laws I am jealous,
And, long as God spares me, will always maintain,
That, *once* having taken men's rights, or umbrellas,
We ne'er should consent to restore them again.

What security have you, ye Bishops and Peers,
If thus you give back Mr. Bell's parapluie,
That he may'nt, with its stick, come about all your ears,
And then — *where* would your Protestant periwigs be?

No, heaven be my judge, were I dying to-day,
Ere I dropp'd in the grave, like a medlar that's mellow,
"For God's sake" — at that awful moment I'd say —
"For God's sake, *don't* give Mr. Bell his umbrella."

["This address," says a ministerial journal, "delivered with amazing emphasis and earnestness, occasioned an extraordinary sensation in the House. Nothing since the memorable address of the Duke of York has produced so remarkable an impression."]

A PASTORAL BALLAD.

BY JOHN BULL.

"*Dublin, March* 12. 1827. — Friday, after the arrival of the packet bringing the account of the defeat of the Catholic Question, in the House of Commons, orders were sent to the Pigeon House to forward 5,000,000 rounds of musket-ball cartridge to the different garrisons round the country." — *Freeman's Journal.*

I HAVE found out a gift for my Erin,
A gift that will surely content her;—
Sweet pledge of a love so endearing!
Five millions of bullets I've sent her.

She ask'd me for Freedom and Right,
But ill she her wants understood;—
Ball cartridges, morning and night,
Is a dose that will do her more good.

There is hardly a day of our lives
But we read, in some amiable trials,
How husbands make love to their wives
Through the medium of hemp and of phials.

One thinks, with his mistress or mate
A good halter is sure to agree—
That love-knot which, early and late,
I have tried, my dear Erin, on thee.

[1] Among the persons mentioned as likely to be raised to the Peerage are the mother of Mr. V—y F—tz—d, &c.

[2] A case which interested the public very much at this period. A gentleman, of the name of Bell, having left his umbrella behind him in the House of Lords, the doorkeepers (standing, no doubt, on the privileges of that noble body) refused to restore it to him; and the above speech, which may be considered as a *pendant* to that of the Learned Earl on the Catholic Question, arose out of the transaction.

[3] From Mr. Canning's translation of Jekyl's —
"I say, my good fellows,
As you've no umbrellas."

While *another*, whom Hymen has bless'd
With a wife that is not over placid,
Consigns the dear charmer to rest,
With a dose of the best Prussic acid.

Thus, Erin! my love do I show—
Thus quiet thee, mate of my bed!
And, as poison and hemp are too slow,
Do thy business with bullets instead.

Should thy faith in my medicine be shaken,
Ask R—d—n, that mildest of saints;
He'll tell thee, lead, inwardly taken,
Alone can remove thy complaints;—

That, blest as thou art in thy lot,
Nothing's wanted to make it more pleasant
But being hang'd, tortur'd, and shot,
Much oftener than thou art at present.

Even W—ll—t—n's self hath averr'd
Thou art yet but half sabred and hung,
And I lov'd him the more when I heard
Such tenderness fall from his tongue.

So take the five millions of pills,
Dear partner, I herewith inclose;
'Tis the cure that all quacks for thy ills,
From Cromwell to Eld—n, propose.

And you, ye brave bullets that go,
How I wish that, before you set out,
The *Devil* of the Freischutz could know
The good work you are going about.

For he'd charm ye, in spite of your lead,
Into such supernatural wit,
That you'd all of you know, as you sped,
Where a bullet of sense *ought* to hit.

A LATE SCENE AT SWANAGE.[1]

Regnis EX-sul ademtis. VIRG.

1827.

To Swanage—that neat little town, in whose bay
Fair Thetis shows off, in her best silver slippers—
Lord Bags[2] took his annual trip t'other day,
To taste the sea breezes, and chat with the dippers.

There—learn'd as he is in conundrums and laws—
Quoth he to his dame (whom he oft plays the wag on),
"Why are chancery suitors like bathers?"—"Because
Their *suits* are *put off*, till—they haven't a rag on."

Thus on he went chatting—but, lo, while he chats,
With a face full of wonder around him he looks;
For he misses his parsons, his dear shovel hats,
Who used to flock round him at Swanage like rooks.

"How is this, Lady Bags?—to this region aquatic
"Last year they came swarming, to make me their bow,
"As thick as Burke's cloud o'er the vales of Carnatic,
"Deans, Rectors, D. D.'s—where the devil are they now?"

"My dearest Lord Bags!" saith his dame, "*can* you doubt?
"I am loth to remind you of things so unpleasant;
"But *don't* you perceive, dear, the Church have found out
"That you're one of the people call'd *Ex*'s, at present?"

"Ah, true—you have hit it—I *am*, indeed, one
"Of those ill-fated *Ex*'s (his Lordship replies),
"And, with tears, I confess—God forgive me the pun!—
"We X's have proved ourselves *not* to be Y's."

WO! WO![3]

Wo, wo unto him who would check or disturb it—
That beautiful Light, which is now on its way;
Which, beaming, at first, o'er the bogs of Belturbet,
Now brightens sweet Ballinafad with its ray!

Oh F—rnh—m, Saint F—rnh—m, how much do we owe thee!
How form'd to all tastes are thy various employs!
The old, as a catcher of Catholics, know thee,
The young, as an amateur scourger of boys.

[1] A small bathing-place on the coast of Dorsetshire, long a favourite summer resort of the ex-nobleman in question, and, *till this season*, much frequented also by gentlemen of the church.

[2] The Lord Chancellor Eld—n.

[3] Suggested by a speech of the Bishop of Ch—st—r on the subject of the New Reformation in Ireland, in which his Lordship denounced "Wo! Wo! Wo!" pretty abundantly on all those who dared to interfere with its progress.

Wo, wo to the man, who such doings would
smother!—
On, Luther of Cavan! On, Saint of Kilgroggy!
With whip in one hand, and with Bible in t'other,
Like Mungo's tormenter, both "preachee and
floggee."

Come, Saints from all quarters, and marshal his way;
Come, L—rt—n, who, scorning profane erudition,
Popp'd Shakspeare, they say, in the river, one day,
Though 'twas only old Bowdler's *Velluti* edition.

Come, R—den, who doubtest—so mild are thy
views—
Whether Bibles or bullets are best for the nation;
Who leav'st to poor Paddy no medium to choose,
'Twixt good *old* Rebellion and *new* Reformation.

What more from her Saints can Hibernia require?
St. Bridget, of yore, like a dutiful daughter,
Supplied her, 'tis said, with perpetual fire,[1]
And Saints keep her, *now*, in eternal hot water.

Wo, wo to the man, who would check their career,
Or stop the Millennium, that's sure to await us,
When, bless'd with an orthodox crop every year,
We shall learn to raise Protestants, fast as pota-
toes.

In kidnapping Papists, our rulers, we know,
Had been trying their talent for many a day;
Till F—rnh—m, when all had been tried, came to
show,
Like the German flea-catcher, "anoder goot
way."

And nothing's more simple than F—rnh—m's re-
ceipt;—
"Catch your Catholic, first—soak him well in
poteen—[2]
"Add *salary* sauce[3], and the thing is complete.
"You may serve up your Protestant, smoking
and clean."

"Wo, wo to the wag, who would laugh at such
cookery!"
Thus, from his perch, did I hear a black crow[4]
Caw angrily out, while the rest of the rookery
Open'd their bills, and re-echo'd "Wo! wo!"

[1] The inextinguishable fire of St. Bridget, at Kildare.

[2] Whiskey.

[3] "We understand that several applications have lately been made to the Protestant clergymen of this town by fellows, inquiring 'What are they giving a head for converts?'" — *Wexford Post.*

TOUT POUR LA TRIPE.

"If, in China or among the natives of India, we claimed civil advantages which were connected with religious usages, little as we might value those forms in our hearts, we should think common decency required us to abstain from treating them with offensive contumely; and, though unable to consider them sacred, we would not sneer at the name of *Fot*, or laugh at the imputed divinity of *Visthnou*." — *Courier, Tuesday, Jan.* 16.

1827.

Come, take my advice, never trouble your cranium,
When "civil advantages" are to be gain'd,
What god or what goddess may help to obtain
you 'em,
Hindoo or Chinese, so they're only obtain'd.

In this world (let me hint in your organ auricular)
All the good things to good hypocrites fall;
And he, who in swallowing creeds is particular,
Soon will have nothing to swallow at all.

Oh place me where *Fo* (or, as some call him, *Fot*)
Is the god, from whom "civil advantages" flow,
And you'll find, if there's any thing snug to be got,
I shall soon be on excellent terms with old *Fo*.

Or were I where *Vishnu*, that four-handed god,
Is the quadruple giver of pensions and places,
I own I should feel it unchristian and odd
Not to find myself also in *Vishnu*'s good graces.

For, among all the gods that humanely attend
To our wants in this planet, the gods to *my* wishes
Are those that, like *Vishnu* and others, descend
In the form, so attractive, of loaves and of fishes![5]

So take my advice—for, if even the devil
Should tempt men again as an idol to try him,
'Twere best for us Tories, even then, to be civil,
As nobody doubts we should get something by
him.

ENIGMA.

Monstrum nulla virtute *redemptum*.

Come, riddle-me-ree, come, riddle-me-ree,
And tell me what my name may be.

[4] Of the rook species — *Corvus frugilegus*, i. e. a great consumer of corn.

[5] Vishnu was (as Sir W. Jones calls him) "a pisciform god," — his first Avatar being in the shape of a fish.

I am nearly one hundred and thirty years old,
And therefore no chicken, as you may suppose;—
Though a dwarf in my youth (as my nurses have told),
I have, ev'ry year since, been outgrowing my clothes;
Till, at last, such a corpulent giant I stand,
That, if folks were to furnish me now with a suit,
It would take ev'ry morsel of *scrip* in the land
But to measure my bulk from the head to the foot.
Hence, they who maintain me, grown sick of my stature,
To cover me nothing but *rags* will supply;
And the doctors declare that, in due course of nature,
About the year 30 in rags I shall die.
Meanwhile, I stalk hungry and bloated around,
An object of *int'rest*, most painful, to all;
In the warehouse, the cottage, the palace I'm found,
Holding citizen, peasant, and king in my thrall.
Then riddle-me-ree, oh riddle-me-ree,
Come, tell me what my name may be.

When the lord of the counting-house bends o'er his book,
Bright pictures of profit delighting to draw,
O'er his shoulders with large cipher eye-balls I look,
And down drops the pen from his paralyz'd paw!
When the Premier lies dreaming of dear Waterloo,
And expects through *another* to caper and prank it,
You'd laugh did you see, when I bellow out "Boo!"
How he hides his brave Waterloo head in the blanket.
When mighty Belshazzar brims high in the hall
His cup, full of gout, to the Gaul's overthrow,
Lo, "*Eight Hundred Millions*" I write on the wall,
And the cup falls to earth and—the gout to his toe!
But the joy of my heart is when largely I cram
My maw with the fruits of the Squirearchy's acres,
And, knowing who made me the thing that I am,
Like the monster of Frankenstein, worry my makers.
Then riddle-me-ree, come, riddle-me-ree,
And tell, if thou knows't, who *I* may be.

---

[1] One of the shows of London.

[2] More particularly his Grace's celebrated amendment to the Corn Bill; for which, and the circumstances connected with it, see Annual Register for A. D. 1827.

DOG-DAY REFLECTIONS.

BY A DANDY KEPT IN TOWN.

"Vox clamantis in deserto."

1827.

Said Malthus, one day, to a clown
Lying stretch'd on the beach, in the sun,—
"What's the number of souls in this town?"—
"The number! Lord bless you, there's none.

"We have nothing but *dabs* in this place,
"Of *them* a great plenty there are;
"But the *soles*, please your rev'rence and grace,
"Are all t'other side of the bar."

And so 'tis in London just now,
Not a soul to be seen, up or down;—
Of *dabs* a great glut, I allow,
But your *soles*, every one, out of town.

East or west, nothing wond'rous or new;
No courtship or scandal, worth knowing;
Mrs. B——, and a Mermaid [1] or two,
Are the only loose fish that are going.

Ah, where is that dear house of Peers,
That, some weeks ago, kept us merry?
Where, Eld—n, art thou, with thy tears?
And thou, with thy sense, L—d—d—y?

Wise Marquis, how much the Lord May'r,
In the dog-days, with *thee* must be puzzled!—
It being his task to take care
That such animals shan't go unmuzzled.

Thou, too, whose political toils
Are so worthy a captain of horse—
Whose amendments [2] (like honest Sir Boyle's)
Are "*amendments*, that make matters *worse*;" [3]

Great Chieftain, who takest such pains
To prove—what is granted, *nem. con.*—
With how mod'rate a portion of brains
Some heroes contrive to get on.

And, thou, too, my R—d—sd—e, ah, where
Is the peer, with a star at his button,
Whose *quarters* could ever compare
With R—d—sd—e's five quarters of mutton? [4]

[3] From a speech of Sir Boyle Roche's, in the Irish House of Commons.

[4] The learning his Lordship displayed, on the subject of the butcher's "fifth quarter" of mutton, will not speedily be forgotten.

Why, why have ye taken your flight,
Ye diverting and dignified crew?
How ill do three farces a night,
At the Haymarket, pay us for you!

For, what is Bombastes to thee,
My Ell—nbro', when thou look'st big?
Or, where's the burletta can be
Like L—d—rd—le's wit, and his wig?

I doubt if ev'n Griffinhoof[1] could
(Though Griffin's a comical lad)
Invent any joke half so good
As that precious one, "This is too bad!"

Then come again, come again, Spring!
Oh haste thee, with Fun in thy train;
And—of all things the funniest—bring
These exalted Grimaldis again!

THE "LIVING DOG" AND "THE DEAD LION."

1828.

NEXT week will be publish'd (as "Lives" are the rage)
The whole Reminiscences, wond'rous and strange,
Of a small puppy-dog, that liv'd once in the cage
Of the late noble Lion at Exeter 'Change.

Though the dog is a dog of the kind they call "sad,"
'Tis a puppy that much to good breeding pretends;
And few dogs have such opportunities had
Of knowing how Lions behave—among friends;

How that animal eats, how he snores, how he drinks,
Is all noted down by this Boswell so small;
And 'tis plain, from each sentence, the puppy-dog thinks
That the Lion was no such great things after all.

Though he roar'd pretty well—this the puppy allows—
It was all, he says, borrow'd—all second-hand roar;
And he vastly prefers his own little bow-wows
To the loftiest war-note the Lion could pour.

'Tis, indeed, as good fun as a *Cynic* could ask,
To see how this cockney-bred setter of rabbits
Takes gravely the Lord of the Forest to task,
And judges of lions by puppy-dog habits.

Nay, fed as he was (and this makes it a dark case)
With sops every day from the Lion's own pan,
He lifts up his leg at the noble beast's carcass,
And—does all a dog, so diminutive, can.

However, the book's a good book, being rich in
Examples and warnings to lions high-bred,
How they suffer small mongrelly curs in their kitchen
Who'll feed on them living, and foul them when dead.

T. PIDCOCK.

Exeter 'Change.

ODE TO DON MIGUEL.

Et tu, *Brute!*

1828.[2]

WHAT! Miguel, *not* patriotic? oh, fye,
After so much good teaching 'tis quite a *take-in*, Sir;—
First school'd, as you were, under Metternich's eye,
And then (as young misses say) "finish'd" at Windsor![3]

I ne'er in my life knew a case that was harder;—
Such feasts as you had, when you made us a call!
Three courses each day from his Majesty's larder,—
And now, to turn absolute Don, after all!!

Some authors, like Bayes, to the style and the matter
Of each thing they *write* suit the way that they *dine*,
Roast sirloin for Epic, broil'd devils for Satire,
And hotchpotch and *trifle* for rhymes such as mine.

That Rulers should feed the same way, I've no doubt;—
Great Despots on *bouilli* serv'd up *à la Russe*,[4]

[1] The *nom de guerre* under which Colman has written some of his best farces.

[2] At the commencement of this year, the designs of Don Miguel and his partisans against the constitution established by his brother had begun more openly to declare themselves.

[3] Don Miguel had paid a visit to the English court, at the close of the year 1827.

[4] Dressed with a pint of the strongest spirits—a favourite dish of the Great Frederick of Prussia, and which he persevered in eating even on his death-bed, much to the horror of his physician Zimmerman.

Your small German Princes on frogs and sour crout,
And your Vice-roy of Hanover always on *goose*.

Some Dons, too, have fancied (though this may be fable)
A dish rather dear, if, in cooking, they blunder it;—
Not content with the common *hot* meat *on* a table,
They're partial (eh, Mig?) to a dish of *cold under* it![1]

No wonder a Don of such appetites found
Even Windsor's collations plebeianly plain;
Where the dishes most *high* that my Lady sends round
Are her *Maintenon* cutlets and soup *à la Reine*.

Alas! that a youth with such charming beginnings,
Should sink, all at once, to so sad a conclusion,
And, what is still worse, throw the losings and winnings
Of worthies on 'Change into so much confusion!

The Bulls, in hysterics — the Bears just as bad —
The few men who *have*, and the many who've *not* tick,
All shock'd to find out that that promising lad,
Prince Metternich's pupil, is — *not* patriotic!

THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.

1828.

Oft have I seen, in gay, equestrian pride,
Some well-roug'd youth round Astley's Circus ride
Two stately steeds — standing, with graceful straddle,
Like him of Rhodes, with foot on either saddle,
While to soft tunes — some jigs, and some *andantes* —
He steers around his light-pac'd Rosinantes.

So rides along, with canter smooth and pleasant,
That horseman bold, Lord Anglesea, at present; —
Papist and *Protestant* the coursers twain,
That lend their necks to his impartial rein,
And round the ring — each honour'd, as they go,
With equal pressure from his gracious toe —
To the old medley tune, half "Patrick's Day"
And half "Boyne Water," take their cant'ring way,
While Peel, the showman in the middle, cracks
His long-lash'd whip, to cheer the doubtful hacks.
Ah, ticklish trial of equestrian art!
How blest, if neither steed would bolt or start; —
If *Protestant*'s old restive tricks were gone,
And *Papist*'s winkers could be still kept on!
But no, false hopes — not even the great Ducrow
'Twixt two such steeds could 'scape an overthrow:
If *solar* hacks play'd Phaëton a trick,
What hope, alas, from hackney's *lunatic*?

If once my Lord his graceful balance loses,
Or fails to keep each foot where each horse chooses;
If Peel but gives one *extra* touch of whip
To *Papist*'s tail or *Protestant*'s ear-tip —
That instant ends their glorious horsemanship!
Off bolt the sever'd steeds, for mischief free,
And down, between them, plumps Lord Anglesea!

[1] This quiet case of murder, with all its particulars — the hiding the body under the dinner-table, &c. &c. — is, no doubt, well known to the reader.

THE LIMBO OF LOST REPUTATIONS.

A DREAM.

"Cio che si perde quí, là si raguna." Ariosto.

"——a valley, where he sees
Things that on earth were lost." Milton.

1828.

Know'st thou not him[2] the poet sings,
Who flew to the moon's serene domain,
And saw that valley, where all the things,
That vanish on earth, are found again —
The hopes of youth, the resolves of age,
The vow of the lover, the dream of the sage,
The golden visions of mining cits,
The promises great men strew about them;
And, pack'd in compass small, the wits
Of monarchs, who rule as well without them! —
Like him, but diving with wing profound,
I have been to a Limbo under ground.
Where characters lost on earth, (and *cried*,
In vain, like H—rr—s's, far and wide,)
In heaps, like yesterday's orts, are thrown
And there, so worthless and fly-blown,
That ev'n the imps would not purloin them,
Lie, till their worthy owners join them.

Curious it was to see this mass
Of lost and torn-up reputations; —
Some of them female wares, alas,
Mislaid at *innocent* assignations;

[2] Astolpho.

Some, that had sigh'd their last amen
From the canting lips of saints that would be;
And some once own'd by "the best of men,"
Who had prov'd—no better than they should be.
'Mong others, a poet's fame I spied,
Once shining fair, now soak'd and black—
"No wonder" (an imp at my elbow cried),
"For I pick'd it out of a butt of sack!"

Just then a yell was heard o'er head,
Like a chimney-sweeper's lofty summons;
And lo! a devil right downward sped,
Bringing, within his claws so red,
Two statesmen's characters, found, he said,
Last night, on the floor of the House of Commons;
The which, with black official grin,
He now to the Chief Imp handed in;—
Both these articles much the worse
For their journey down, as you may suppose;
But *one* so devilish rank—"Odds curse!"
Said the Lord Chief Imp, and held his nose.

"Ho, ho!" quoth he, "I know full well
"From whom these two stray matters fell;"—
Then, casting away, with loathful shrug,
The' uncleaner waif (as he would a drug
The' Invisible's own dark hand had mix'd),
His gaze on the other[1] firm he fix'd,
And trying, though mischief laugh'd in his eye,
To be moral, because of the *young* imps by,
"What a pity!" he cried—"so fresh its gloss,
"So long preserv'd—'tis a public loss!
"This comes of a man, the careless blockhead,
"Keeping his character in his pocket;
"And there—without considering whether
"There's room for that and his gains together—
"Cramming, and cramming, and cramming away,
"Till—out slips character some fine day!

"However"—and here he view'd it round—
"This article still may pass for sound.
"Some flaws, soon patch'd, some stains are all
"The harm it has had in its luckless fall.
"Here, Puck!"—and he call'd to one of his train—
"The owner may have this back again.
"Though damag'd for ever, if us'd with skill,
"It may serve, perhaps, to *trade on* still;
"Though the gem can never, as once, be set,
"It will do for a Tory Cabinet."

---

[1] H—k—n.

HOW TO WRITE BY PROXY.

Qui facit per alium facit per se.

'Mong our neighbours, the French, in the good olden time
When Nobility flourish'd, great Barons and Dukes
Often set up for authors in prose and in rhyme,
But ne'er took the trouble to write their own books.

Poor devils were found to do this for their betters;—
And one day, a Bishop, addressing a *Blue*,
Said, "Ma'am, have you read my new Pastoral Letters?"
To which the *Blue* answer'd—"No, Bishop, have *you?*"

The same is now done by *our* privileg'd class;
And, to show you how simple the process it needs,
If a great Major-General[2] wishes to pass
For an author of History, thus he proceeds:—

First, scribbling his own stock of notions as well
As he can, with a *goose*-quill that claims him as *kin*,
He settles his neckcloth—takes snuff—rings the bell,
And yawningly orders a Subaltern in.

The Subaltern comes—sees his General seated,
In all the self-glory of authorship swelling;—
"There, look," saith his Lordship, "My work is completed,—
"It wants nothing now, but the grammar and spelling."

Well used to a *breach*, the brave Subaltern dreads
Awkward breaches of syntax a hundred times more;
And, though often condemn'd to see breaking of heads,
He had ne'er seen such breaking of Priscian's before.

However, the job's sure to *pay*—that's enough—
So, to it he sets with his tinkering hammer,
Convinc'd that there never was job half so tough
As the mending a great Major-General's grammar.

But, lo, a fresh puzzlement starts up to view—
New toil for the Sub.—for the Lord new expense:
'Tis discover'd that mending his *grammar* wo'n't do,
As the Subaltern also must find him in *sense!*

[2] Or Lieutenant-General, as it may happen to be.

At last—even this is achieved by his aid;
Friend Subaltern pockets the cash and—the story;
Drums beat—the new Grand March of Intellect's play'd—
And off struts my Lord, the Historian, in glory!

IMITATION OF THE INFERNO OF DANTE.

"Così quel fiato gli spiriti mali
Di quà, di là, di giù, di su gli mena." *Inferno*, canto 5.

I TURN'D my steps, and lo, a shadowy throng
Of ghosts came fluttering tow'rds me—blown along,
Like cockchafers in high autumnal storms,
By many a fitful gust that through their forms
Whistled, as on they came, with wheezy puff,
And puff'd as—though they'd never puff enough.

"Whence and what are ye?" pitying I inquir'd
Of these poor ghosts, who, tatter'd, tost, and tir'd
With such eternal puffing, scarce could stand
On their lean legs while answering my demand.
"We once were authors"—thus the Sprite, who led
This tag-rag regiment of spectres, said—
"Authors of every sex, male, female, neuter,
"Who, early smit with love of praise and—*pewter*, [1]
"On C—lb—n's [2] shelves first saw the light of day,
"In ———'s puffs exhal'd our lives away—
"Like summer windmills, doom'd to dusty peace,
"When the brisk gales, that lent them motion cease.
"Ah, little knew we then what ills await
"Much-lauded scribblers in their after state;
"Bepuff'd on earth—how loudly Str—t can tell—
"And, dire reward, now doubly puff'd in hell!"

Touch'd with compassion for his ghastly crew,
Whose ribs, even now, the hollow wind sung through
In mournful prose,—such prose as Rosa's [3] ghost
Still at the' accustom'd hour of eggs and toast,
Sighs through the columns of the *M—rn—g P—t*,—
Pensive I turn'd to weep, when he, who stood
Foremost of all that flatulential brood,
Singling a *she*-ghost from the party, said,
"Allow me to present Miss X. Y. Z.," [4]
"One of our *letter'd* nymphs—excuse the pun—
"Who gain'd a name on earth by—having none;
"And whose initials would immortal be,
"Had she but learn'd those plain ones, A. B. C.

"Yon smirking ghost, like mummy dry and neat,
"Wrapp'd in his own dead rhymes—fit winding-sheet—
"Still marvels much that not a soul should care
"One single pin to know who wrote 'May Fair;'—
"While this young gentleman," (here forth he drew
A dandy spectre, puff'd quite through and through,
As though his ribs were an Æolian lyre
For the old Row's soft *trade*-winds to inspire,)
"This modest genius breath'd one wish alone,
"To have his volume read, himself unknown;
"But different far the course his glory took,
"All knew the author, and—none read the book.

"Behold, in yonder ancient figure of fun,
"Who rides the blast, Sir J—n—h B—rr—t—n;—
"In tricks to raise the wind his life was spent,
"And now the wind returns the compliment.
"This lady here, the Earl of ——'s sister,
"Is a dead novelist; and this is Mister—
"Beg pardon—*Honourable* Mister L—st—r,
"A gentleman who, some weeks since, came over
"In a smart puff (wind S. S. E.) to Dover.
"Yonder behind us limps young Vivian Grey,
"Whose life, poor youth, was long since blown away,
"Like a torn paper-kite, on which the wind
"No further purchase for a puff can find."

"And thou thyself"—here, anxious, I exclaim'd—
"Tell us, good ghost, how thou, thyself, art nam'd."
"Me, Sir!" he blushing cried—"Ah, there's the rub—
"Know, then—a waiter once at Brooks's Club,
"A waiter still I might have long remain'd,
"And long the club-room's jokes and glasses drain'd;
"But, ah, in luckless hour, this last December,
"I wrote a book [5], and Colburn dubb'd me 'Member'—
"'Member of Brooks's!'—oh Promethean puff,
"To what wilt thou exalt even kitchen-stuff!
"With crums of gossip, caught from dining wits,
"And half-heard jokes, bequeath'd, like half-chew'd bits,
"To be, each night, the waiter's perquisites;—
"With such ingredients, serv'd up oft before,
"But with fresh fudge and fiction garnish'd o'er,
"I manag'd, for some weeks, to dose the town,
"Till fresh reserves of nonsense ran me down;

[1] The *classical* term for money.

[2] The reader may fill up this gap with any one of the *dissyllabic* publishers of London that occurs to him.

[3] Rosa Matilda, who was for many years the writer of the political articles in the journal alluded to, and whose spirit still seems to preside—"regnat Rosa"—over its pages.

[4] *Not* the charming L. E. L., and still less, Mrs. F. H. whose poetry is among the most beautiful of the present day.

[5] "History of the Clubs of London," announced as by "a Member of Brooks's."

" And, ready still even waiters' souls to damn,
" The Devil but rang his bell, and — here I am; —
" Yes — ' Coming *up*, Sir,' once my favourite cry,
" Exchang'd for ' Coming *down*, Sir,' here am I!"

Scarce had the spectre's lips these words let drop,
When, lo, a breeze — such as from ——'s shop
Blows in the vernal hour, when puffs prevail,
And speeds the *sheets* and swells the lagging *sale* —
Took the poor waiter rudely in the poop,
And, whirling him and all his grisly group
Of literary ghosts — Miss X. Y. Z. —
The nameless author, better known than read —
Sir Jo. — the Honourable Mr. L—st—r,
And, last, not least, Lord Nobody's twin-sister —
Blew them, ye gods, with all their prose and rhymes
And sins about them, far into those climes
" Where Peter pitch'd his waistcoat[1] " in old times,
Leaving me much in doubt, as on I prest,
With my great master, through this realm unblest,
Whether old Nick or C—lb—n puffs the best.

LAMENT FOR THE LOSS OF LORD B—TH—ST'S TAIL.[2]

ALL *in* again — unlook'd for bliss!
Yet, ah, *one* adjunct still we miss; —
One tender tie, attach'd so long
To the same head, through right and wrong.
Why, B—th—st, why didst thou cut off
That memorable tail of thine?
Why — as if *one* was not enough —
Thy pig-tie with thy place resign,
And thus, at once, both *cut* and *run*?
Alas, my Lord, 'twas not well done,
'Twas not, indeed — though sad at heart,
From office and its sweets to part,
Yet hopes of coming in again,
Sweet Tory hopes! beguil'd our pain;
But thus to miss that tail of thine,
Through long, long years our rallying sign —
As if the State and all its powers
By tenancy *in tail* were ours —
To see it thus by scissors fall,
This was " the' unkindest *cut* of all!"
It seem'd as though the' ascendant day
Of Toryism had pass'd away,
And, proving Samson's story true,
She lost her vigour with her *queue*.

Parties are much like fish, 'tis said —
The tail directs them, not the head;
Then, how could *any* party fail,
That steer'd its course by B—th—st's tail?
Not Murat's plume, through Wagram's fight,
E'er shed such guiding glories from it,
As erst, in all true Tories' sight,
Blaz'd from our old Colonial comet!
If you, my Lord, a Bashaw were,
(As W—ll—gt—n will be anon)
Thou might'st have had a tail to spare;
But no, alas, thou hadst but one,
And *that* — like Troy, or Babylon,
A tale of other times — is gone!
Yet — weep ye not, ye Tories true —
Fate has not yet of all bereft us;
Though thus depriv'd of B—th—st's *queue*,
We've E—b—h's *curls* still left us; —
Sweet curls, from which young Love, so vicious,
His shots, as from nine-pounders, issues;
Grand, glorious curls, which, in debate,
Surcharg'd with all a nation's fate,
His Lordship shakes, as Homer's God did,[3]
And oft in thundering talk comes near him; —
Except that, there, the *speaker* nodded,
And, here, 'tis only those who hear him.
Long, long, ye ringlets, on the soil
Of that fat cranium may ye flourish,
With plenty of Macassar oil,
Through many a year your growth to nourish!
And, ah, should Time too soon unsheath
His barbarous shears such locks to sever,
Still dear to Tories, even in death,
Their last, lov'd relics we'll bequeath,
A *hair*-loom to our sons for ever.

THE CHERRIES.

A PARABLE.[4]

1828.

SEE those cherries, how they cover
Yonder sunny garden wall; —
Had they not that network over,
Thieving birds would eat them all.

[1] A *Dantesque* allusion to the old saying, "Nine miles beyond H—ll, where Peter pitched his waistcoat."

[2] The noble Lord, it is well known, cut off this much-respected appendage, on his retirement from office some months since.

[3] " Shakes his ambrosial curls, and gives the nod."
POPE's *Homer*.

[4] Written during the late discussion on the Test and Corporation Acts.

So, to guard our posts and pensions,
Ancient sages wove a net,
Through whose holes, of small dimensions,
Only *certain* knaves can get.

Shall we then this network widen?
Shall we stretch these sacred holes,
Through which, even already, slide in
Lots of small dissenting souls?

"God forbid!" old *Testy* crieth;
"God forbid!" so echo I;
Every ravenous bird that flieth
Then would at our cherries fly.

Ope but half an inch or so,
And, behold, what bevies break in;—
Here, some curst old Popish crow
Pops his long and lickerish beak in;

Here, sly Arians flock unnumber'd,
And Socinians, slim and spare,
Who, with small belief encumber'd,
Slip in easy any where;—

Methodists, of birds the aptest,
Where there's *pecking* going on;
And that water-fowl, the Baptist—
All would share our fruits anon;

Every bird, of every city,
That, for years, with ceaseless din,
Hath revers'd the starling's ditty,
Singing out "I can't get *in*."

"God forbid!" old *Testy* snivels;
"God forbid!" I echo too;
Rather may ten thousand d-v-ls
Seize the whole voracious crew!

If less costly fruit wo'n't suit 'em,
Hips and haws, and such like berries,
Curse the cormorants! stone 'em, shoot 'em,
Any thing — to save our cherries.

STANZAS WRITTEN IN ANTICIPATION OF DEFEAT.[1]

1828.

Go seek for some abler defenders of wrong,
If we *must* run the gauntlet through blood and expense;

Or, Goths as ye are, in your multitude strong,
Be content with success, and pretend not to sense.

If the words of the wise and the gen'rous are vain,
If Truth by the bowstring *must* yield up her breath,
Let Mutes do the office — and spare her the pain
Or an In—gl—s or T—nd—l to talk her to death.

Chain, persecute, plunder — do all that you will—
But save us, at least, the old womanly lore
Of a F—st—r, who, dully prophetic of ill,
Is, at once, the *two* instruments, AUGUR[2] and BORE.

Bring legions of Squires — if they'll only be mute—
And array their thick heads against reason and right,
Like the Roman of old, of historic repute,[3]
Who with droves of dumb animals carried the fight;

Pour out, from each corner and hole of the Court,
Your Bedchamber lordlings, your salaried slaves,
Who, ripe for all job-work, no matter what sort,
Have their consciences tack'd to their patents and staves.

Catch all the small fry who, as Juvenal sings,
Are the Treasury's creatures, wherever they swim;[4]
With all the base, time-serving *toadies* of Kings,
Who, if Punch were the monarch, would worship even him;

And while, on the *one* side, each name of renown,
That illumines and blesses our age is combin'd;
While the Foxes, the Pitts, and the Cannings look down,
And drop o'er the cause their rich mantles of Mind;

Let bold Paddy H—lmes show his troops on the other,
And, counting of noses the quantum desir'd,
Let Paddy but say, like the Gracchi's fam'd mother,
"Come forward, my *jewels*"—'tis all that's requir'd.

And thus let your farce be enacted hereafter—
Thus honestly persecute, outlaw, and chain;
But spare even your victims the torture of laughter,
And never, oh never, try *reasoning* again!

[1] During the discussion of the Catholic question in the House of Commons last session.

[2] This rhyme is more for the ear than the eye, as the carpenter's tool is spelt auger.

[3] Fabius, who sent droves of bullocks against the enemy.

[4] Res Fisci est, ubicumque natat. — JUVENAL.

ODE TO THE WOODS AND FORESTS.

BY ONE OF THE BOARD.

1828.

Let other bards to groves repair,
Where linnets strain their tuneful throats,
Mine be the Woods and Forests, where
The Treasury pours its sweeter *notes*.

No whispering winds have charms for me,
Nor zephyrs balmy sighs I ask;
To raise the wind for Royalty
Be all our Sylvan zephyr's task!

And, 'stead of crystal brooks and floods,
And all such vulgar irrigation,
Let Gallic rhino through our Woods
Divert its "course of liquid-ation."

Ah, surely, Virgil knew full well
What Woods and Forests *ought* to be,
When, sly, he introduc'd in hell
His guinea-plant, his bullion-tree:—[1]

Nor see I why, some future day,
When short of cash, we should not send
Our H—rr—s down—he knows the way—
To see if Woods in hell will *lend*.

Long may ye flourish, sylvan haunts,
Beneath whose "*branches* of expense"
Our gracious K——g gets all he wants,—
Except a little taste and sense.

Long, in your golden shade reclin'd,
Like him of fair Armida's bowers,
May W—ll—n some *wood*-nymph find,
To cheer his dozenth lustrum's hours;

To rest from toil the Great Untaught,
And soothe the pangs his warlike brain
Must suffer, when, unus'd to thought,
It tries to think, and—tries in vain.

Oh long may Woods and Forests be
Preserv'd, in all their teeming graces,
To shelter Tory bards, like me,
Who take delight in Sylvan *places!*[2]

---

[1] Called by Virgil botanically, "*species* auri frondentis."

[2] Tu facis, ut *silvas*, ut amem *loca*——
Ovid.

STANZAS FROM THE BANKS OF THE SHANNON.[3]

1828.

"Take back the virgin page."
Moore's *Irish Melodies*.

No longer, dear V—sey, feel hurt and uneasy
At hearing it said by thy Treasury brother,
That thou art a sheet of blank paper, my V—sey,
And he, the dear innocent placeman, another.[4]

For, lo, what a service we, Irish, have done thee;—
Thou now art a sheet of blank paper no more;
By St. Patrick, we've scrawl'd such a lesson upon thee
As never was scrawl'd upon foolscap before.

Come—on with your spectacles, noble Lord Duke,
(Or O'Connell has *green* ones he haply would lend you,)
Read V—sey all o'er (as you *can't* read a book)
And improve by the lesson we, bog-trotters, send you;

A lesson, in large *Roman* characters trac'd,
Whose awful impressions from you and your kin
Of blank-sheeted statesmen will ne'er be effac'd—
Unless, 'stead of *paper*, you're mere *asses' skin*.

Shall I help you to construe it? ay, by the Gods,
Could I risk a translation, you *should* have a rare one;
But pen against sabre is desperate odds,
And you, my Lord Duke (as you *hinted* once), wear one.

Again and again I say, read V—sey o'er;—
You will find him worth all the old scrolls of papyrus,
That Egypt e'er fill'd with nonsensical lore,
Or the learned Champollion e'er wrote of, to tire us.

All blank as he was, we've return'd him on hand,
Scribbled o'er with a warning to Princes and Dukes,
Whose plain, simple drift if they *wo'n't* understand,
Though caress'd at St. James's, they're fit for St. Luke's.

[3] These verses were suggested by the result of the Clare election, in the year 1828, when the Right Honourable W. Vesey Fitzgerald was rejected, and Mr. O'Connell returned.

[4] Some expressions to this purport, in a published letter of one of these gentleman, had then produced a good deal of amusement.

Talk of leaves of the Sibyls! — more meaning convey'd is
In one single leaf such as now we have spell'd on,
Than e'er hath been utter'd by all the old ladies
That ever yet spoke, from the Sibyls to Eld—n.

THE ANNUAL PILL.

Supposed to be sung by OLD PROSY, the Jew, in the character of Major C—RTW—GHT.

VILL nobodies try my nice *Annual Pill*,
Dat's to purify every ting nashty avay?
Pless ma heart, pless ma heart, let me say vat I vill,
Not a Chrishtian or Shentleman minds vat I say!
'Tis so pretty a bolus!—just down let it go,
And, at vonce, such a *radical* shange you vill see,
Dat I'd not be surprish'd, like de horse in de show,
If your heads all vere found, vere your tailsh ought to be!
Vill nobodies try my nice *Annual Pill*, &c.

'Twill cure all Electors, and purge away clear
Dat mighty bad itching dey've got in deir hands—
'Twill cure, too, all Statesmen, of dulness, ma tear,
Though the case vas as desperate as poor Mister VAN'S.
Dere is nothing at all vat dis Pill vill not reach—
Give the Sinecure Shentleman von little grain,
Pless ma heart, it vill act, like de salt on de leech,
And he'll throw de pounds, shillings, and pence, up again!
Vill nobodies try my nice *Annual Pill*, &c.

'Twould be tedious, ma tear, all its peauties to paint—
But, among oder tings *fundamentally* wrong,
It vill cure de *Proad Pottom*[1]—a common complaint
Among M. P.'s and weavers — from *sitting* too long,
Should symptoms of *speeching* preak out on a dunce
(Vat is often de case), it vill stop de disease,
And pring avay all de long speeches at vonce,
Dat else vould, like tape-worms, come by degrees!

Vill nobodies try my nice *Annual Pill*,
Dat's to purify every ting nashty avay?
Pless ma heart, pless ma heart, let me say vat I vill,
Not a Chrishtian or Shentleman minds vat I say!

[1] Meaning, I presume, *Coalition* Administrations.

"IF" AND "PERHAPS."[2]

OH tidings of freedom! oh accents of hope!
Waft, waft them, ye zephyrs, to Erin's blue sea,
And refresh with their sounds every son of the Pope,
From Dingle-a-cooch to far Donaghadee.

"*If* mutely the slave will endure and obey,
"Nor clanking his fetters, nor breathing his pains,
"His masters, *perhaps*, at some far distant day,
"May *think* (tender tyrants!) of loosening his chains."

Wise "if" and "perhaps!"—precious salve for our wounds,
If he, who would rule thus o'er manacled mutes,
Could check the free spring-tide of Mind, that resounds,
Even now, at his feet, like the sea at Canute's.

But, no, 'tis in vain—the grand impulse is given—
Man knows his high Charter, and knowing will claim;
And if ruin *must* follow where fetters are riven,
Be theirs, who have forg'd them, the guilt and the shame.

"*If* the slave will be silent!—vain Soldier, beware—
There *is* a dead silence the wrong'd may assume,
When the feeling, sent back from the lips in despair,
But clings round the heart with a deadlier gloom;—

When the blush, that long burn'd on the suppliant's cheek,
Gives place to the' avenger's pale, resolute hue;
And the tongue, that once threaten'd, disdaining to *speak*,
Consigns to the arm the high office—to *do*.

If men, in that silence, should think of the hour,
When proudly their fathers in panoply stood,
Presenting, alike, a bold front-work of power
To the despot on land and the foe on the flood:

That hour, when a Voice had come forth from the west,
To the slave bringing hopes, to the tyrant alarms;

[2] Written after hearing a celebrated speech in the House of Lords, June 10. 1828, when the motion in favour of Catholic Emancipation, brought forward by the Marquis of Lansdowne, was rejected by the House of Lords.

And a lesson, long look'd for, was taught the oppressed,
That kings are as dust before freemen in arms!

If, awfuller still, the mute slave should recall
That dream of his boyhood, when Freedom's sweet day
At length seem'd to break through a long night of thrall,
And Union and Hope went abroad in its ray;—

If Fancy should tell him, that Day-spring of Good,
Though swiftly its light died away from his chain,
Though darkly it set in a nation's best blood,
Now wants but invoking to shine out again;—

If—*if*, I say—breathings like these should come o'er
The chords of remembrance, and thrill, as they come,
Then, *perhaps*—ay, *perhaps*—but I dare not say more;
Thou hast will'd that thy slaves should be mute—I am dumb.

WRITE ON, WRITE ON.

A BALLAD.

Air.—"*Sleep on, sleep on, my Kathleen dear.*"

Salvete, fratres Asini. ST. FRANCIS.

WRITE on, write on, ye Barons dear,
Ye Dukes, write hard and fast;
The good we've sought for many a year
Your quills will bring at last.
One letter more, N—we—stle. pen
To match Lord K—ny—n's *two*,
And more than Ireland's host of men,
One brace of Peers will do.
Write on, write on, &c.

Sure, never, since the precious use
Of pen and ink began,
Did letters, writ by fools, produce
Such signal good to man.
While intellect, 'mong high and low,
Is marching *on*, they say,
Give *me* the Dukes and Lords, who go,
Like crabs, the *other* way.
Write on, write on, &c.

Even now I feel the coming light—
Even now, could Folly lure
My Lord M—ntc—sh—l, too, to write,
Emancipation's sure.
By geese (we read in history),
Old Rome was sav'd from ill;
And now, to *quills* of geese, we see
Old Rome indebted still.
Write on, write on, &c.

Write, write, ye Peers, nor stoop to style,
Nor beat for sense about—
Things, little worth a Noble's while,
You're better far without.
Oh ne'er, since asses spoke of yore,
Such miracles were done;
For, write but four such letters more,
And Freedom's cause is won!

SONG OF THE DEPARTING SPIRIT OF TITHE.

"The parting Genius is with sighing sent." MILTON.

IT is o'er, it is o'er, my reign is o'er;
I hear a Voice, from shore to shore,
From Dunfanaghy to Baltimore,
And it saith, in sad, parsonic tone,
"Great Tithe and Small are dead and gone!"

Even now, I behold your vanishing wings,
Ye Tenths of all conceivable things,
Which Adam first, as Doctors deem,
Saw, in a sort of night-mare dream, [1]
After the feast of fruit abhorr'd—
First indigestion on record!—
Ye decimate ducks, ye chosen chicks,
Ye pigs which, though ye be Catholics,
Or of Calvin's most select deprav'd,
In the Church must have your bacon sav'd;—
Ye fields, where Labour counts his sheaves,
And, whatsoe'er *himself* believes,
Must bow to the' Establish'd *Church* belief,
That the tenth is always a *Protestant* sheaf;—
Ye calves, of which the man of Heaven
Takes *Irish* tithe, one calf in seven; [2]

[1] A reverend prebendary of Hereford, in an Essay on the Revenues of the Church of England, has assigned the origin of Tithes to "some unrecorded revelation made to Adam."

[2] "The tenth calf is due to the parson of common right; and if there are seven he shall have one."—REES's *Cyclopædia*, art. "*Tithes*."

Ye tenths of rape, hemp, barley, flax,
Eggs [1], timber, milk, fish, and bees' wax;
All things, in short, since earth's creation,
Doom'd, by the Church's dispensation,
To suffer eternal decimation—
Leaving the whole *lay*-world, since then,
Reduc'd to nine parts out of ten;
Or—as we calculate thefts and arsons—
Just *ten per cent.* the worse for Parsons!

Alas, and is all this wise device
For the saving of souls thus gone in a trice?—
The whole put down, in the simplest way,
By the souls resolving *not* to pay!
And even the Papists, thankless race,
Who have had so much the easiest case—
To *pay for* our sermons doom'd, 'tis true,
But not condemn'd to *hear them*, too—
(Our holy business being, 'tis known,
With the ears of their barley, not their own,)
Even *they* object to let us pillage,
By right divine, their tenth of tillage,
And, horror of horrors, even decline
To find us in sacramental wine! [2]

It is o'er, it is o'er, my reign is o'er,
Ah, never shall rosy Rector more,
Like the shepherds of Israel, idly eat,
And make of his flock "a prey and meat." [3]
No more shall be his the pastoral sport
Of suing his flock in the Bishop's Court,
Through various steps, Citation, Libel—
Scriptures all, but *not* the Bible;
Working the Law's whole apparatus,
To get at a few pre-doom'd potatoes,
And summoning all the powers of wig,
To settle the fraction of a pig!—
Till, parson and all committed deep
In the case of "Shepherds *versus* Sheep,"
The Law usurps the Gospel's place,
And, on Sundays, meeting face to face,
While Plaintiff fills the preacher's station,
Defendants form the congregation.

So lives he, Mammon's priest, not Heaven's,
For *tenths* thus all at *sixes* and *sevens*,
Seeking what parsons love no less
Than tragic poets—a good *distress*.
Instead of studying St. Augustin,
Gregory Nyss., or old St. Justin
(Books fit only to hoard dust in),
His reverence stints his evening readings
To learn'd Reports of Tithe Proceedings,
Sipping, the while, that port so ruddy,
Which forms his only *ancient* study;—
Port so old, you'd swear its tartar
Was of the age of Justin Martyr,
And, had he sipp'd of such, no doubt
His martyrdom would have been—to gout.

Is all then lost?—alas, too true—
Ye Tenths belov'd, adieu, adieu!
My reign is o'er, my reign is o'er—
Like old Thumb's ghost, "I can no more."

THE EUTHANASIA OF VAN.

"We are told that the bigots are growing old and fast wearing out. If it be so, why not let us die in peace?"—LORD BEXLEY'S *Letter to the Freeholders of Kent.*

STOP, Intellect, in mercy stop,
Ye curst improvements, cease;
And let poor Nick V—ns—tt—t drop
Into his grave in peace.

Hide, Knowledge, hide thy rising sun,
Young Freedom, veil thy head;
Let nothing good be thought or done,
Till Nick V—ns—tt—t's dead!

Take pity on a dotard's fears,
Who much doth light detest;
And let his last few drivelling years
Be dark as were the rest.

You, too, ye fleeting one-pound notes,
Speed not so fast away—
Ye rags, on which old Nicky gloats,
A few months longer stay. [4]

Together soon, or much I err,
You *both* from life may go—
The notes unto the scavenger,
And Nick—to Nick below.

Ye Liberals, whate'er your plan,
Be all reforms suspended;

[1] Chaucer's Plowman complains of the parish rectors, that
"For the tithing of a duck,
Or an apple or an aye (egg),
They make him swear upon a boke;
Thus they foulen Christ's fay."

[2] Among the specimens laid before Parliament of the sort of Church rates levied upon Catholics in Ireland, was a charge of two pipes of port for sacramental wine.

[3] Ezekiel, xxxiv. 10.—"Neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."

[4] Perituræ parcere chartæ.

In compliment to dear old Van,
Let nothing bad be mended.

Ye Papists, whom oppression wrings,
Your cry politely cease,
And fret your hearts to fiddle-strings
That Van may die in peace.

So shall he win a fame sublime
By few old rag-men gain'd;
Since all shall own, in Nicky's time,
Nor sense, nor justice reign'd.

So shall his name through ages past,
And dolts ungotten yet,
Date from "the days of Nicholas,"
With fond and sad regret;—

And sighing, say, "Alas, had he
"Been spar'd from Pluto's bowers,
"The blessed reign of Bigotry
"And Rags might still be ours!"

TO THE REVEREND ——.

ONE OF THE SIXTEEN REQUISITIONISTS OF NOTTINGHAM.

1828.

WHAT, *you*, too, my ******, in hashes so knowing,
Of sauces and soups Aristarchus profest!
Are *you*, too, my savoury Brunswicker, going
To make an old fool of yourself with the rest?

Far better to stick to your kitchen receipts;
And—if you want *something* to tease—for variety,
Go study how Ude, in his "Cookery," treats
Live eels, when he fits them for polish'd society.

Just snuggling them in, 'twixt the bars of the fire,
He leaves them to wriggle and writhe on the coals,[1]
In a manner that H—rn—r himself would admire,
And wish, 'stead of *eels*, they were Catholic souls.

Ude tells us, the fish little suffering feels;
While Papists, of late, have more sensitive grown;
So, take my advice, try your hand at live eels,
And, for *once*, let the other poor devils alone.

I have even a still better receipt for your cook—
How to make a goose die of confirm'd *hepatitis*;[2]
And, if you'll, for once, *fellow*-feelings o'erlook,
A well-tortur'd goose a most capital sight is.

First, catch him, alive—make a good steady fire—
Set your victim before it, both legs being tied,
(As, if left to himself, he *might* wish to retire,)
And place a large bowl of rich cream by his side.

There roasting by inches, dry, fever'd, and faint,
Having drunk all the cream, you so civilly laid, off,
He dies of as charming a liver complaint
As ever sleek parson could wish a pie made of.

Besides, only think, my dear one of Sixteen,
What an emblem this bird, for the epicure's use meant,
Presents of the mode in which Ireland has been
Made a tit-bit for yours and your brethren's amusement:

Tied down to the stake, while her limbs, as they quiver,
A slow fire of tyranny wastes by degrees—
No wonder disease should have swell'd up her liver,
No wonder you, Gourmands, should love her disease.

IRISH ANTIQUITIES.

ACCORDING to some learn'd opinions
The Irish once were Carthaginians;
But, trusting to more late descriptions,
I'd rather say they were Egyptians.
My reason's this:—the Priests of Isis,
When forth they march'd in long array,
Employ'd, 'mong other grave devices,
A Sacred Ass to lead the way;[3]
And still the antiquarian traces
'Mong Irish Lords this Pagan plan,
For still, in all religious cases,
They put Lord R—d—n in the van.

---

[1] The only way, Monsieur Ude assures us, to get rid of the oil so objectionable in this fish.

[2] A liver complaint. The process by which the livers of geese are enlarged for the famous *Patés de foie d'oie*.

[3] To this practice the ancient adage alludes, "Asinus portans mysteria."

A CURIOUS FACT.

THE present Lord K—ny—n (the Peer who writes letters,
For which the waste-paper folks much are his debtors)
Hath one little oddity, well worth reciting,
Which puzzleth observers, even more than his writing.
Whenever Lord K—ny—n doth chance to behold
A cold Apple-pie—mind, the pie *must* be cold—
His Lordship looks solemn (few people know why),
And he makes a low bow to the said apple-pie.
This idolatrous act, in so "vital" a Peer,
Is, by most serious Protestants, thought rather queer—
Pie-worship, they hold, coming under the head
(Vide *Crustium*, chap. iv.) of the Worship of Bread.
Some think 'tis a tribute, as author, he owes
For the service that pie-crust hath done to his prose;—
The only good things in his pages, they swear,
Being those that the pastry-cook sometimes puts there.
Others say, 'tis a homage, through pie-crust convey'd,
To our Glorious Deliverer's much-honour'd shade;
As that Protestant Hero (or Saint, if you please)
Was as fond of cold pie as he was of green peas,[1]
And 'tis solely in loyal remembrance of that,
My Lord K—ny—n to apple-pie takes off his hat.
While others account for this kind salutation
By what Tony Lumpkin calls "concatenation;"—
A certain good-will that, from sympathy's ties,
'Twixt old *Apple*-women and *Orange*-men lies.

But 'tis needless to add, these are all vague surmises,
For thus, we're assur'd, the whole matter arises:
Lord K—ny—n's respected old father (like many
Respected old fathers) was fond of a penny;
And lov'd so to save[2], that—there's not the least question—
His death was brought on by a bad indigestion,
From cold apple-pie-crust his Lordship *would* stuff in,
At breakfast, to save the expense of hot muffin.
Hence it is, and hence only, that cold apple-pies
Are beheld by his Heir with such reverent eyes—
Just as honest King Stephen his beaver might doff
To the fishes that carried his kind uncle off—
And while *filial* piety urges so many on,
'Tis pure *apple*-pie-ety moves my Lord K—ny—n.

[1] See the anecdote, which the Duchess of Marlborough relates in her Memoirs of this polite hero appropriating to himself one day, at dinner, a whole dish of green peas—the first of the season—while the poor Princess Anne, who was then in a longing condition, sat by, vainly entreating, with her eyes, for a share—

[2] The same prudent propensity characterises his descendant, who (as is well known) would not even go to the expense of a diphthong on his father's monument, but had the inscription spelled, economically, thus:—"*Mors janua vita.*"

NEW-FASHIONED ECHOES.

Sir,

Most of your readers are, no doubt, acquainted with the anecdote told of a certain, not over-wise, judge, who, when in the act of delivering a charge in some country court-house, was interrupted by the braying of an ass at the door. "What noise is that?" asked the angry judge. "Only an extraordinary *echo* there is in court, my Lord," answered one of the counsel.

As there are a number of such "extraordinary echoes" abroad just now, you will not, perhaps, be unwilling, Mr. Editor, to receive the following few lines suggested by them.

Yours, &c.

S.

Huc coeamus[3], ait; nullique libentius unquam
Responsura sono, Coeamus, retulit echo.
OVID.

THERE are echoes, we know, of all sorts,
From the echo, that "dies in the dale,"
To the "airy-tongued babbler," that sports
Up the tide of the torrent her "tale."

There are echoes that bore us, like Blues,
With the latest smart *mot* they have heard;
There are echoes, extremely like shrews,
Letting nobody have the last word.

In the bogs of old Paddy-land, too,
Certain "talented" echoes[4] there dwell,
Who, on being ask'd, "How do you do?"
Politely reply, "Pretty well."

But why should I talk any more
Of such old-fashion'd echoes as these,
When Britain has new ones in store,
That transcend them by many degrees?

For, of all repercussions of sound,
Concerning which bards make a pother,
There's none like that happy rebound
When one blockhead echoes another;—

[3] "Let us form Clubs."

[4] Commonly called "Paddy Blake's Echoes."

When K—ny—n commences the bray,
And the Borough-Duke follows his track;
And loudly from Dublin's sweet bay,
R—thd—ne brays, with interest, back; —

And while, of *most* echoes the sound
On our ear by reflection doth fall,
These Brunswickers[1] pass the bray round,
Without any reflection at all.

Oh Scott, were I gifted like you,
Who can name all the echoes there are
From Benvoirlich to bold Ben-venue,
From Benledi to wild Uamvar;

I might track, through each hard Irish name,
The rebounds of this asinine strain,
Till from Neddy to Neddy, it came
To the *chief* Neddy, K—ny—n, again;

Might tell how it roar'd in R—thd—ne,
How from D—ws—n it died off genteelly—
How hollow it rung from the crown
Of the fat-pated Marquis of E—y;

How, on hearing my Lord of G——e,
Thistle-eaters, the stoutest, gave way,
Outdone, in their own special line,
By the forty-ass power of his bray!

But, no—for so humble a bard
'Tis a subject too trying to touch on;
Such noblemen's names are too hard,
And their noddles too soft to dwell much on.

Oh Echo, sweet nymph of the hill,
Of the dell, and the deep-sounding shelves;
If, in spite of Narcissus, you still
Take to fools who are charm'd with themselves,

Who knows but, some morning retiring,
To walk by the Trent's wooded side,
You may meet with N—we—stle, admiring
His own lengthen'd ears in the tide!

Or, on into Cambria straying,
Find K—ny—n, that double-tongued elf,
In his love of *ass*-cendency, braying
A Brunswick duet with himself!

[1] Anti-Catholic associations, under the title of Brunswick Clubs, were at this time becoming numerous both in England and Ireland.

[2] Alluding to a well-known lyric composition of the late Marquis, which, with a slight alteration, might be addressed either to a flea or a fly. For instance: —

" Oh, happy, happy, happy fly,
If I were you, or you were I."

Or,

" Oh, happy, happy, happy flea,
If I were you, or you were *me*;
But since, alas! that cannot be,
I must remain Lord S——y."

INCANTATION.

FROM THE NEW TRAGEDY OF "THE BRUNSWICKERS."

1828.

SCENE.—*Penenden Plain. In the middle, a caldron boiling. Thunder.—Enter Three Brunswickers.*

1*st Bruns.* — THRICE hath scribbling K—ny—n scrawl'd,
2*d Bruns.* — Once hath fool N—we—stle bawl'd,
3*d Bruns.* — B—xl—y snores: — 'tis time, 'tis time,
1*st Bruns.* — Round about the caldron go;
In the poisonous nonsense throw.
Bigot spite, that long hath grown,
Like a toad within a stone,
Sweltering in the heart of Sc—tt,
Boil we in the Brunswick pot.
All. — Dribble, dribble, nonsense dribble,
Eld—n, talk, and K—ny—n, scribble.
2*d Bruns.* — Slaver from N—we—stle's quill
In the noisome mess distil,
Brimming high our Brunswick broth
Both with venom and with froth.
Mix the brains (though apt to hash ill,
Being scant) of Lord M—ntc—shel,
With that malty stuff which Ch—nd—s
Drivels as no other man does.
Catch (*i. e.* if catch you can)
One idea, spick and span,
From my Lord of S—l—sb—y,—
One idea, though it be
Smaller than the "happy flea,"
Which his sire, in sonnet terse,
Wedded to immortal verse.[2]
Though to rob the son is sin,
Put his *one* idea in;
And, to keep it company,
Let that conjuror W—nch—ls—a
Drop but *half* another there,
If he hath so much to spare.
Dreams of murders and of arsons,
Hatch'd in heads of Irish parsons,
Bring from every hole and corner,
Where ferocious priests, like H—rn—r,
Purely for religious good,
Cry aloud for Papist's blood,
Blood for W—lls, and such old women,
At their ease to wade and swim in.

All.—Dribble, dribble, nonsense dribble,
B—xl—y, talk, and K—ny—n, scribble.
3d Bruns.—Now the charm begin to brew;
Sisters, sisters, add thereto
Scraps of L—thbr—dge's old speeches,
Mix'd with leather from his breeches.
Rinsings of old B—xl—y's brains,
Thicken'd (if you'll take the pains)
With that pulp which rags create,
In their middle, *nympha* state,
Ere, like insects frail and sunny,
Forth they wing abroad as money.
There—the Hell-broth we've enchanted—
Now but *one* thing more is wanted.
Squeeze o'er all that Orange juice,
C——— keeps cork'd for use,
Which, to work the better spell, is
Colour'd deep with blood of ——,
Blood, of powers far more various,
Even than that of Januarius,
Since so great a charm hangs o'er it,
England's parsons bow before it!
All.—Dribble, dribble, nonsense dribble,
B—xl—y, talk, and K—ny—n, scribble.
2d Bruns.—Cool it now with ——'s blood,
So the charm is firm and good. [*Exeunt.*

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD POLITICIAN.

WHENE'ER you're in doubt, said a Sage I once knew,
'Twixt two lines of conduct *which* course to pursue,
Ask a woman's advice, and, whate'er she advise,
Do the very reverse, and you're sure to be wise.

Of the same use as guides, are the Brunswicker throng;
In their thoughts, words, and deeds, so instinctively wrong,
That, whatever they counsel, act, talk, or indite,
Take the opposite course, and you're sure to be right.

So golden this rule, that, had nature denied you
The use of that finger-post, Reason, to guide you—
Were you even more doltish than any given man is,
More soft than N—wc—stle, more twaddling than Van is,
I'd stake my repute, on the following conditions,
To make you the soundest of sound politicians.

Place yourself near the skirts of some high-flying Tory—
Some Brunswicker parson, of port-drinking glory,—
Watch well how he dines, during any great Question—
What makes him feed gaily, what spoils his digestion—
And always feel sure that *his* joy o'er a stew
Portends a clear case of dyspepsia to *you*.
Read him backwards, like Hebrew—whatever he wishes,
Or praises, note down as absurd, or pernicious.
Like the folks of a weather-house, shifting about,
When he's *out*, be an In—when he's *in*, be an *Out*.
Keep him always revers'd in your thoughts, night and day,
Like an Irish barometer turn'd the wrong way:—
If he's *up*, you may swear that foul weather is nigh;
If he's *down*, you may look for a bit of blue sky.
Never mind what debaters or journalists say,
Only ask what *he* thinks, and then think t'other way.
Does he hate the Small-note Bill? then firmly rely
The Small-note Bill's a blessing, though *you* don't know why.
Is Brougham his aversion? then Harry's your man.
Does he quake at O'Connell? take doubly to Dan.
Is he all for the Turks? then, at once, take the whole
Russian Empire (Czar, Cossacks, and all) to your soul.
In short, whatsoever he talks, thinks, or is,
Be your thoughts, words, and essence the contrast of his.
Nay, as Siamese ladies—at least, the polite ones—
All paint their teeth black, 'cause the devil has white ones—
If ev'n, by the chances of time or of tide,
Your Tory, for once, should have sense on his side,
Even *then* stand aloof—for, be sure that Old Nick,
When a Tory talks sensibly, means you some trick.

Such my recipe is—and, in one single verse,
I shall now, in conclusion, its substance rehearse.
Be all that a Brunswicker *is* not, nor *could* be,
And then—you'll be all that an honest man should be.

EPISTLE OF CONDOLENCE,

FROM A SLAVE-LORD TO A COTTON-LORD.

ALAS! my dear friend, what a state of affairs!
How unjustly we both are despoil'd of our rights!

Not a pound of black flesh shall I leave to my heirs,
Nor must *you* any more work to death little whites.

Both forc'd to submit to that general controller
Of Kings, Lords, and cotton mills, Public Opinion,
No more shall *you* beat with a big-billy-roller,
Nor *I* with the cart-whip assert my dominion.

Whereas, were we suffer'd to do as we please
With our Blacks and our Whites, as of yore we were let,
We might range them alternate, like harpsichord keys,
And between us thump out a good piebald duet.

But this fun is all over;—farewell to the zest
Which Slavery now lends to each tea-cup we sip;
Which makes still the cruellest coffee the best,
And that sugar the sweetest which smacks of the whip.

Farewell, too, the Factory's white picaninnies—
Small, living machines, which, if flogg'd to their tasks,
Mix so well with their namesakes, the "Billies" and "Jennies,"
That *which* have got souls in 'em nobody asks;—

Little Maids of the Mill, who, themselves but ill-fed,
Are oblig'd, 'mong their other benevolent cares,
To "keep feeding the scribblers [1]"—and better, 'tis said,
Than old Blackwood or Fraser have ever fed theirs.

All this is now o'er, and so dismal *my* loss is,
So hard 'tis to part from the smack of the thong,
That I mean (from pure love for the old whipping process),
To take to whipt syllabub all my life long.

THE GHOST OF MILTIADES.

Ah quoties dubius *Scrip*tis exarsit amator! OVID.

THE Ghost of Miltiades came at night,
And he stood by the bed of the Benthamite,
And he said, in a voice, that thrill'd the frame,
"If ever the sound of Marathon's name
"Hath fir'd thy blood or flush'd thy brow,
"Lover of Liberty, rouse thee now!"

The Benthamite, yawning, left his bed—
Away to the Stock Exchange he sped,
And he found the Scrip of Greece so high,
That it fir'd his blood, it flush'd his eye,
And oh, 'twas a sight for the Ghost to see,
For never was Greek more Greek than he!
And still as the premium higher went,
His ecstasy rose—so much *per cent.*,
(As we see in a glass, that tells the weather,
The heat and the *silver* rise together,)
And Liberty sung from the patriot's lip,
While a voice from his pocket whisper'd "Scrip!"
The Ghost of Miltiades came again;—
He smil'd, as the pale moon smiles through rain,
For his soul was glad at that patriot strain;
(And poor, dear ghost—how little he knew
The jobs and the tricks of the Philhellene crew!)
"Blessings and thanks!" was all he said,
Then, melting away, like a night-dream, fled!

The Benthamite hears—amaz'd that ghosts
Could be such fools,—and away he posts,
A patriot still? Ah no, ah no—
Goddess of Freedom, thy Scrip is low,
And, warm and fond as thy lovers are,
Thou triest their passion, when under *par*.
The Benthamite's ardour fast decays,
By turns he weeps, and swears, and prays,
And wishes the d—l had Crescent and Cross,
Ere *he* had been forc'd to sell at a loss.
They quote him the Stock of various nations,
But, spite of his classic associations,
Lord, how he loathes the Greek *quotations!*
"Who'll buy my Scrip? Who'll buy my Scrip?"
Is now the theme of the patriot's lip,
As he runs to tell how hard his lot is
To Messrs. Orlando and Luriottis,
And says, "Oh Greece, for Liberty's sake,
"Do buy my Scrip, and I vow to break
"Those dark, unholy *bonds* of thine—
"If you'll only consent to buy up *mine!*"
The Ghost of Miltiades came once more;—
His brow, like the night, was lowering o'er,
And he said, with a look that flash'd dismay,
"Of Liberty's foes the worst are they,
"Who turn to a trade her cause divine,
"And gamble for gold on Freedom's shrine!"
Thus saying, the Ghost, as he took his flight,
Gave a Parthian kick to the Benthamite,
Which sent him, whimpering, off to Jerry—
And vanish'd away to the Stygian ferry!

[1] One of the operations in cotton mills usually performed by children.

ALARMING INTELLIGENCE — REVOLUTION IN THE DICTIONARY — ONE *GALT* AT THE HEAD OF IT.

God preserve us! — there's nothing now safe from assault; —
Thrones toppling around, churches brought to the hammer;
And accounts have just reach'd us that one Mr. *Galt*
Has declar'd open war against English and Grammar!

He had long been suspected of some such design,
And, the better his wicked intents to arrive at,
Had lately 'mong C—lb—n's troops of *the line*
(The penny-a-line men) enlisted as private.

There school'd, with a rabble of words at command,
Scotch, English, and slang, in promiscuous alliance,
He, at length, against Syntax has taken his stand,
And sets all the Nine Parts of Speech at defiance.

Next advices, no doubt, further facts will afford;
In the mean time the danger most imminent grows,
He has taken the Life of one eminent Lord,
And whom he'll *next* murder the Lord only knows.

Wednesday Evening.

Since our last, matters, luckily, look more serene;
Though the rebel, 'tis stated, to aid his defection,
Has seized a great Powder — no, Puff Magazine,
And the' explosions are dreadful in every direction.

What his meaning exactly is, nobody knows,
As he talks (in a strain of intense botheration)
Of lyrical "ichor [1]," "gelatinous" prose,[2]
And a mixture call'd amber immortalization.[3]

Now, he raves of a bard he once happen'd to meet,
Seated high "among rattlings," and churning a sonnet; [4]

Now, talks of a mystery, wrapp'd in a sheet,
With a halo (by way of a nightcap) upon it! [5]

We shudder in tracing these terrible lines;
Something bad they must mean, though we can't make it out;
For, whate'er may be guess'd of Galt's secret designs,
That they're all *Anti*-English no Christian can doubt.

RESOLUTIONS

PASSED AT A LATE MEETING OF

REVEREND AND RIGHT REVEREND.

Resolv'd — to stick to every particle
Of every Creed and every Article;
Reforming nought, or great or little,
We'll stanchly stand by every tittle,[6]
And scorn the swallow of that soul
Which cannot boldly bolt the whole.

Resolv'd that, though St. Athanasius
In damning souls is rather spacious —
Though wide and far his curses fall,
Our Church "hath stomach for them all;"
And those who're not content with such,
May e'en be d—d ten times as much.
Resolv'd — such liberal souls are we —
Though hating Nonconformity,
We yet believe the cash no worse is
That comes from Nonconformist purses.
Indifferent *whence* the money reaches
The pockets of our reverend breeches,
To us the Jumper's jingling penny
Chinks with a tone as sweet as any;
And even our old friends Yea and Nay
May through the nose for ever pray,
If *also* through the nose they'll pay.

Resolv'd, that Hooper[7], Latimer,[8]
And Cranmer[9], all extremely err,

[1] "That dark diseased ichor which coloured his effusions." — Galt's *Life of Byron*.

[2] "That gelatinous character of their effusions." — *Ibid.*

[3] "The poetical embalmment, or rather, amber immortalization." — *Ibid.*

[4] "Sitting amidst the shrouds and rattlings, churning an inarticulate melody." — *Ibid.*

[5] "He was a mystery in a winding sheet, crowned with a halo." — *Ibid.*

[6] One of the questions propounded to the Puritans in 1573 was — "Whether the Book of Service was good and godly, every tittle grounded on the Holy Scripture?" On which an honest Dissenter remarks — "Surely they had a wonderful opinion of their Service Book that there was not a *tittle* amiss in it."

[7] "They," the Bishops, "know that the primitive Church had no such Bishops. If the fourth part of the bishopric remained unto the Bishop, it were sufficient." — *On the Commandments*, p. 72.

[8] "Since the Prelates were made Lords and Nobles, the plough standeth, there is no work done, the people starve." — *Lat. Serm.*

[9] "Of whom have come all these glorious titles, styles, and pomps into the Church. But I would that I, and all my brethren, the Bishops, would leave all our styles, and write the styles of our offices," &c. — *Life of Cranmer, by Strype, Appendix.*

In taking such a low-bred view
Of what Lords Spiritual ought to do : —
All owing to the fact, poor men,
That Mother Church was modest then,
Nor knew what golden eggs her goose,
The Public, would in time produce.
One Pisgah peep at modern Durham
To far more lordly thoughts would stir 'em.

Resolv'd, that when we, Spiritual Lords,
Whose income just enough affords
To keep our Spiritual Lordships cozy,
Are told, by Antiquarians prosy,
How ancient Bishops cut up theirs,
Giving the poor the largest shares —
Our answer is, in one short word,
We think it pious, but absurd.
Those good men made the world their debtor,
But we, the Church reform'd, know better ;
And, taking all that all can pay,
Balance the' account the other way.

Resolv'd, our thanks profoundly due are
To last month's Quarterly Reviewer,
Who proves (by arguments so clear
One sees how much he holds *per* year)
That England's Church, though out of date,
Must still be left to lie in state,
As dead, as rotten, and as grand as
The mummy of King Osymandyas,
All pickled snug—the brains drawn out[1] —
With costly cerements swath'd about, —
And "Touch me not," those words terrific,
Scrawl'd o'er her in good hieroglyphic.

SIR ANDREW'S DREAM.

" Nec tu sperne piis venientia somnia portis :
Cum pia venerunt somnia, pondus habent."
PROPERT. lib. iv. eleg. 7.

As snug, on a Sunday eve, of late,
In his easy chair Sir Andrew sate,
Being much too pious, as every one knows,
To do aught, of a Sunday eve, but doze,
He dreamt a dream, dear, holy man,
And I'll tell you his dream as well as I can.

He found himself, to his great amaze,
In Charles the First's high Tory days,
And just at the time that gravest of Courts
Had publish'd its Book of Sunday Sports.[2]
Sunday Sports ! what a thing for the ear
Of Andrew, even in sleep, to hear ! —
It chanc'd to be, too, a Sabbath day,
When the people from church were coming away ;
And Andrew with horror heard this song,
As the smiling sinners flock'd along : —
" Long life to the Bishops, hurrah ! hurrah !
" For a week of work and a Sunday of play
" Make the poor man's life run merry away."

" The Bishops!" quoth Andrew, " Popish, I guess,"
And he grinned with conscious holiness.
But the song went on, and, to brim the cup
Of poor Andy's grief, the fiddles struck up !

" Come, take out the lasses — let's have a dance —
" For the Bishops allow us to skip our fill,
" Well knowing that no one's the more in advance
" On the road to heaven, for standing still.
" Oh, it never was meant that grim grimaces
" Should sour the cream of a creed of love ;
" Or that fellows with long, disastrous faces,
" Alone should sit among cherubs above.
" Then hurrah for the Bishops, &c.

" For Sunday fun we never can fail,
" When the Church herself each sport points out ; —
" There's May-games, archery, Whitsun-ale,
" And a May-pole high to dance about.
" Or, should we be for a pole hard driven,
" Some lengthy saint, of aspect fell,
" With his pockets on earth, and his nose in heaven,
" Will do for a May-pole just as well.
" Then hurrah for the Bishops, hurrah ! hurrah !
" A week of work and a Sabbath of play
" Make the poor man's life run merry away."

To Andy, who doesn't much deal in history,
This Sunday scene was a downright mystery ;
And God knows where might have ended the joke,
But, in trying to stop the fiddles, he woke.
And the odd thing is (as the rumour goes)
That since that dream — which, one would suppose,

[1] Part of the process of embalmment.

[2] *The Book of Sports* drawn up by Bishop Moreton was first put forth in the reign of James I., 1618, and afterwards republished, at the advice of Laud, by Charles I., 1633, with an injunction that it should be "made public by order from the Bishops." We find it therein declared, that "for his good people's recreation, his Majesty's pleasure was, that after the end of divine service they should not be disturbed, letted, or discouraged from any lawful recreations, such as dancing, either of men or women, archery for men, leaping, vaulting, or any such harmless recreations, nor having of May-games, Whitsun-ales, or Morris-dances, or setting up of May-poles, or other sports therewith used," &c.

Should have made his godly stomach rise,
Even more than ever, 'gainst Sunday pies—
He has view'd things quite with different eyes;
Is beginning to take, on matters divine,
Like Charles and his Bishops, the *sporting* line—
Is all for Christians jigging in pairs,
As an interlude 'twixt Sunday prayers;—
Nay, talks of getting Archbishop H—l—y
To bring in a Bill, enacting duly,
That all good Protestants, from this date,
May, freely and lawfully, recreate,
Of a Sunday eve, their spirits moody,
With Jack in the Straw, or Punch and Judy.

A BLUE LOVE-SONG.

TO MISS ———.

Air.—"*Come live with me, and be my love.*"

COME wed with me, and we will write,
My Blue of Blues, from morn till night.
Chas'd from our classic souls shall be
All thoughts of vulgar progeny;
And thou shalt walk through smiling rows
Of chubby duodecimos,
While I, to match thy products nearly,
Shall lie-in of a quarto yearly.
'Tis true, ev'n books entail some trouble;
But *live* productions give one double.
Correcting children is *such* bother,—
While printers' devils correct the other.
Just think, my own Malthusian dear,
How much more decent 'tis to hear
From male or female—as it may be—
"How is your book?" than "How's your baby?"
And, whereas physic and wet nurses
Do much exhaust paternal purses,
Our books, if rickety, may go
And be well dry-nurs'd in *the Row*;
And, when God wills to take them hence,
Are buried at *the Row's* expense.

Besides (as 'tis well prov'd by thee,
In thy own Works, vol. 93.)
The march, just now, of population
So much outstrips all moderation,
That even prolific herring-shoals
Keep pace not with our erring souls.[1]

Oh far more proper and well-bred
To stick to writing books instead;
And show the world how two Blue lovers
Can coalesce, like two book-covers,
(Sheep-skin, or calf, or such wise leather,)
Letter'd at back, and stitch'd together,
Fondly as first the binder fix'd 'em,
With nought but—literature betwixt 'em.

SUNDAY ETHICS.

A SCOTCH ODE.

PUIR, profligate Londoners, having heard tell
That the De'il's got amang ye, and fearing 'tis true,
We ha' sent ye a mon wha's a match for his spell,
A chiel o' our ain, that the De'il himsel'
Will be glad to keep clear of, one Andrew Agnew.

So, at least, ye may reckon, for ane day entire
In ilka lang week ye'll be tranquil eneugh,
As Auld Nick, do him justice, abhors a Scotch squire,
An' would sooner gae roast by his ain kitchen fire
Than pass a hale Sunday wi' Andrew Agnew.

For, bless the gude mon, gin he had his ain way,
He'd na let a cat on the Sabbath say "mew;"
Nae birdie maun whistle, nae lambie maun play,
An' Phœbus himsel could na travel that day,
As he'd find a new Joshua in Andie Agnew.

Only hear, in your Senate, how awfu' he cries,
"Wae, wae to a' sinners who boil an' who stew!
"Wae, wae to a' eaters o' Sabbath-bak'd pies,
"For as surely again shall the crust thereof rise
"In judgment against ye," saith Andrew Agnew!

Ye may think, from a' this, that our Andie's the lad
To ca' o'er the coals your nobeelity, too;
That their drives, o' a Sunday, wi' flunkies[2], a' clad
Like Shawmen, behind 'em, would mak the mon mad—
But he's nae sic a noodle, our Andie Agnew.

[1] See "Ella of Garveloch."—Garveloch being a place where there was a large herring-fishery, but where, as we are told by the author, "the people increased much faster than the produce."

[2] Servants in livery.

If Lairds an' fine Ladies, on Sunday, think right
To gang to the deevil — as maist o' em do —
To stop them our Andie would think na polite;
And 'tis odds (if the chiel could get ony thing by't)
But he'd follow 'em, booing [1], would Andrew Agnew.

AWFUL EVENT.

YES, W—nch—ls—a (I tremble while I pen it),
W—nch—ls—a's Earl hath *cut* the British Senate—
Hath said to England's Peers, in accent gruff,
"*That* for ye all" [snapping his fingers], and exit, in a huff!

Disastrous news! — like that, of old, which spread
From shore to shore, "our mighty Pan is dead,"
O'er the cross benches (cross from *being* crost)
Sounds the loud wail, "Our W—ch—ls—a is lost!"

Which of ye, Lords, that heard him, can forget
The deep impression of that awful threat,
"I quit your house!!" — 'midst all that histories tell,
I know but *one* event that's parallel: —

It chanc'd at Drury Lane, one Easter night,
When the gay gods, too blest to be polite,
Gods at their ease, like those of learn'd Lucretius,
Laugh'd, whistled, groan'd, uproariously facetious —
A well-dress'd member of the middle gallery,
Whose "ears polite" disdain'd such low canaillerie,
Rose in his place — so grand, you'd almost swear
Lord W—nch—ls—a himself stood towering there —
And like that Lord of dignity and *nous*,
Said, "Silence, fellows, or — I'll leave the house!!"

How brook'd the gods this speech? Ah well-a-day,
That speech so fine should be so thrown away!
In vain did this mid-gallery grandee
Assert his own two-shilling dignity —
In vain he menac'd to withdraw the ray
Of his own full-price countenance away —
Fun against Dignity is fearful odds,
And as the Lords laugh *now*, so giggled *then* the gods!

[1] For the "gude effects and utility of booing," see the *Man of the World*.

THE NUMBERING OF THE CLERGY.

PARODY ON SIR CHARLES HAN. WILLIAMS'S FAMOUS ODE,

"COME, CLOE, AND GIVE ME SWEET KISSES."

"We want more Churches and more Clergymen."
Bishop of London's late Charge.
"Rectorum numerum, terris pereuntibus, augent."
Claudian in Eutrop.

COME, give us more Livings and Rectors,
For, richer no realm ever gave;
But why, ye unchristian objectors,
Do ye ask us how many we crave? [2]

Oh, there can't be too many rich Livings
For souls of the Pluralist kind,
Who, despising old Cocker's misgivings,
To numbers can ne'er be confin'd. [3]

Count the cormorants hovering about, [4]
At the time their fish season sets in,
When these models of keen diners-out
Are preparing their beaks to begin.

Count the rooks that, in clerical dresses,
Flock round when the harvest's in play,
And, not minding the farmer's distresses,
Like devils in grain peck away.

Go, number the locusts in heaven, [5]
On their way to some titheable shore;
And when *so* many Parsons you've given,
We still shall be craving for more.

Then, unless ye the Church would submerge, ye
Must leave us in peace to augment,
For the wretch who could number the Clergy,
With few will be ever content. [6]

[2] Come, Cloe, and give me sweet kisses,
For sweeter sure never girl gave;
But why, in the midst of my blisses,
Do you ask me how many I'd have?

[3] For whilst I love thee above measure,
To numbers I'll ne'er be confin'd.

[4] Count the bees that on Hybla are playing,
Count the flowers that enamel its fields,
Count the flocks, &c.

[5] Go number the stars in the heaven,
Count how many sands on the shore;
When so many kisses you've given,
I still shall be craving for more.

[6] But the wretch who can number his kisses,
With few will be ever content.

A SAD CASE.

' "If it be the undergraduate season at which this *rabies religiosa* is to be so fearful, what security has Mr. G—lb—n against it at this moment, when his son is actually exposed to the full venom of an association with Dissenters?"—*The Times*, March 25.

How sad a case!—just think of it—
If G—lb—n junior should be bit
By some insane Dissenter, roaming
Through Granta's halls, at large and foaming,
And with that aspect, *ultra* crabbed
Which marks Dissenters when they're rabid!
God only knows what mischiefs might
Result from this one single bite,
Or how the venom, once suck'd in,
Might spread and rage through kith and kin.
Mad folks, of all denominations,
First turn upon their own relations:
So that *one* G—lb—n, fairly bit,
Might end in maddening the whole kit,
Till, ah, ye gods, we'd have to rue
Our G—lb—n senior bitten too;
The Hychurchphobia in those veins,
Where Tory blood now redly reigns;—
And that dear man, who now perceives
Salvation only in lawn sleeves,
Might, tainted by such coarse infection,
Run mad in the' opposite direction,
And think, poor man, 'tis only given
To linsey-woolsey to reach Heaven!

Just fancy what a shock 'twould be
Our G—lb—n in his fits to see,
Tearing into a thousand particles
His once lov'd Nine and Thirty Articles;
(Those Articles his friend, the Duke, [1]
For Gospel, t'other night, mistook;)
Cursing cathedrals, deans, and singers—
Wishing the ropes might hang the ringers—
Pelting the church with blasphemies,
Even worse than Parson B—v—rl—y's;—
And ripe for severing Church and State,
Like any creedless reprobate,
Or like that class of Methodists
Prince Waterloo styles "Atheists!"

But 'tis too much—the Muse turns pale,
And o'er the picture drops a veil,
Praying, God save the G—lb—rns all
From mad Dissenters, great and small!

[1] The Duke of Wellington, who styled them "the Articles of Christianity."

A DREAM OF HINDOSTAN.

——*risum* teneatis, amici.

"The longer one lives, the more one learns,"
Said I, as off to sleep I went,
Bemus'd with thinking of Tithe concerns,
And reading a book, by the Bishop of Ferns,[2]
On the Irish Church Establishment.
But, lo, in sleep, not long I lay,
When Fancy her usual tricks began,
And I found myself bewitch'd away
To a goodly city in Hindostan—
A city, where he, who dares to dine
On aught but rice, is deem'd a sinner;
Where sheep and kine are held divine,
And, accordingly—never drest for dinner.

"But how is this?" I wond'ring cried—
As I walk'd that city, fair and wide,
And saw, in every marble street,
A row of beautiful butchers' shops—
"What means, for men who don't eat meat,
"This grand display of loins and chops?"
In vain I ask'd—'twas plain to see
That nobody dar'd to answer me.

So, on, from street to street I strode;
And you can't conceive how vastly odd
The butchers look'd—a roseate crew,
Inshrin'd in *stalls*, with nought to do;
While some on a *bench*, half-dozing, sat,
And the Sacred Cows were not more fat.

Still pos'd to think, what all this scene
Of sinecure trade was *meant* to mean,
"And, pray," ask'd I—"by whom is paid
"The expense of this strange masquerade?"—
"The' expense!—oh! that's of course defray'd
(Said one of these well-fed Hecatombers)
"By yonder rascally rice-consumers."
"What! *they*, who mustn't eat meat!"—
"No matter—
(And, while he spoke, his cheeks grew fatter,)
"The rogues may munch their *Paddy* crop,
"But the rogues must still support *our* shop.
"And, depend upon it, the way to treat
"Heretical stomachs that thus dissent,
"Is to burden all that wo'n't eat meat,
"With a costly Meat Establishment."

On hearing these words so gravely said,
With a volley of laughter loud I shook;

[2] An indefatigable scribbler of anti-Catholic pamphlets.

And my slumber fled, and my dream was sped,
And I found I was lying snug in bed,
With my nose in the Bishop of FERNS' book.

THE BRUNSWICK CLUB.

A letter having been addressed to a very distinguished personage, requesting him to become the Patron of this Orange Club, a polite answer was forthwith returned, of which we have been fortunate enough to obtain a copy.

Brimstone-hall, September 1. 1828.

Private. — LORD BELZEBUB presents
To the Brunswick Club his compliments,
And much regrets to say that he
Cannot, at present, their Patron be.
In stating this, Lord Belzebub
Assures, on his honour, the Brunswick Club,
That 'tisn't from any lukewarm lack
Of zeal or fire he thus holds back —
As even Lord *Coal*[1] himself is not
For the Orange party more red-hot:
But the truth is, till their Club affords
A somewhat decenter show of Lords,
And on its list of members gets
A few less rubbishy Baronets,
Lord Belzebub must beg to be
Excus'd from keeping such company.

Who the devil, he humbly begs to know,
Are Lord Gl—nd—ne, and Lord D—nlo?
Or who, with a grain of sense, would go
To sit and be bor'd by Lord M—yo?
What living creature — *except his nurse* —
For Lord M—ntc—sh—l cares a curse,
Or thinks 'twould matter if Lord M—sk—rry
Were t'other side of the Stygian ferry?
Breathes there a man in Dublin town,
Who'd give but half of half-a-crown
To save from drowning my Lord R—thd—ne,
Or who wouldn't also gladly hustle in
Lords R—d—n, B—nd—n, C—le, and J—c—l—n?
In short, though, from his tenderest years,
Accustom'd to all sorts of Peers,
Lord Belzebub much questions whether
He ever yet saw, mix'd together,
As 'twere in one capacious tub,
Such a mess of noble silly-bub
As the twenty Peers of the Brunswick Club.
'Tis therefore impossible that Lord B.
Could stoop to such society,

[1] Usually written "Cole."

Thinking, he owns (though no great prig),
For one in his station 'twere *infra dig.*
But he begs to propose, in the interim
(Till they find some prop'rer Peers for him),
His Highness of C—mb—d, as *Sub*,
To take his place at the Brunswick Club —
Begging, meanwhile, himself to dub
Their obedient servant, BELZEBUB.

It luckily happens, the R—y—l Duke
Resembles so much, in air and look,
The head of the Belzebub family,
That few can any difference see;
Which makes him, of course, the better suit
To serve as Lord B.'s substitute.

PROPOSALS FOR A GYNÆCOCRACY.

ADDRESSED TO A LATE RADICAL MEETING.

—— "Quas ipsa decus sibi dia Camilla
Delegit pacisque bonas bellique ministras." VIRGIL.

As Whig Reform has had its range,
And none of us are yet content,
Suppose, my friends, by way of change,
We try a *Female Parliament*;
And since, of late, with *he* M. P.'s
We've far'd so badly, take to she's —
Petticoat patriots, flounc'd John Russells,
Burdetts in *blonde*, and Broughams in *bustles*.
The plan is startling, I confess —
But 'tis but an affair of dress;
Nor see I much there is to choose
'Twixt Ladies (so they're thorough bred ones)
In ribands of all sorts of hues,
Or Lords in only blue or red ones.

At least, the fiddlers will be winners,
Whatever other trade advances;
As then, instead of Cabinet dinners,
We'll have, at Almack's, Cabinet dances;
Nor let this world's important questions
Depend on Ministers' digestions.

If Ude's receipts have done things ill,
To Weippert's band they may go better;
There's Lady * *, in one quadrille,
Would settle Europe, if you'd let her:
And who the deuce or asks, or cares,
When Whigs or Tories have undone 'em,
Whether they've *danc'd* through State affairs,
Or simply, dully, *din'd* upon 'em?

Hurrah then for the Petticoats!
To them we pledge our free-born votes;
We'll have all *she*, and only *she*—
Pert blues shall act as "best debaters,"
Old dowagers our Bishops be,
And termagants our Agitators.

If Vestris, to oblige the nation,
Her own Olympus will abandon,
And help to prop the' Administration,
It *can't* have better legs to stand on.
The fam'd Macaulay (Miss) shall show,
Each evening, forth in learn'd oration;
Shall move (midst general cries of "Oh!")
For full returns of population:
And, finally, to crown the whole,
The Princess Olive[1], Royal soul,
Shall from her bower in Banco Regis,
Descend, to bless her faithful lieges,
And, 'mid our Union's loyal chorus,
Reign jollily for ever o'er us.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE * * *.

Sir,

Having heard some rumours respecting the strange and awful visitation under which Lord H—nl—y has for some time past been suffering, in consequence of his declared hostility to "anthems, solos, duets[2]," &c., I took the liberty of making enquiries at his Lordship's house this morning, and lose no time in transmitting to you such particulars as I could collect. It is said that the screams of his Lordship, under the operation of this nightly concert, (which is, no doubt, some trick of the Radicals,) may be heard all over the neighbourhood. The female who personates St. Cecilia is supposed to be the same that, last year, appeared in the character of Isis, at the Rotunda. How the cherubs are managed, I have not yet ascertained. Yours, &c.

P.P.

LORD H—NL—Y AND ST. CECILIA.

——in Metii descendat Judices aures. HORAT.

As snug in his bed Lord H—nl—y lay,
Revolving much his own renown,
And hoping to add thereto a ray,
By putting duets and anthems down,

Sudden a strain of choral sounds
Mellifluous o'er his senses stole;
Whereat the Reformer mutter'd, "Zounds!"
For he loath'd sweet music with all his soul.

Then, starting up, he saw a sight
That well might shock so learn'd a snorer—
Saint Cecilia, rob'd in light,
With a portable organ slung before her.

And round were Cherubs, on rainbow wings,
Who, his Lordship fear'd, might tire of flitting,
So begg'd they'd sit—but ah! poor things,
They'd, none of them, got the means of sitting.[3]

"Having heard," said the Saint, "you're fond of hymns,
"And indeed, that musical snore betray'd you,
"Myself, and my choir of cherubims,
"Are come, for a while, to serenade you."

In vain did the horrified H—nl—y say
"'Twas all a mistake"—"she was misdirected;"
And point to a concert over the way,
Where fiddlers and angels were expected.

In vain—the Saint could see in his looks
(She civilly said) much tuneful lore;
So, at once, all open'd their music-books,
And herself and her Cherubs set off at score.

All night duets, terzets, quartets,
Nay, long quintets most dire to hear;
Ay, and old motets, and canzonets,
And glees, in sets, kept boring his ear.

He tried to sleep—but it wouldn't do;
So loud they squall'd, he *must* attend to 'em;
Though Cherubs' songs, to his cost he knew,
Were like themselves, and had no end to 'em.

Oh judgment dire on judges bold,
Who meddle with music's sacred strains!
Judge Midas tried the same of old,
And was punish'd, like H—nl—y, for his pains.

But worse on the modern judge, alas!
Is the sentence launch'd from Apollo's throne;
For Midas was given the ears of an ass,
While H—nl—y is doom'd to keep his own!

---

[1] A personage, so styling herself, who attained considerable notoriety at that period.

[2] In a work, on Church Reform, published by his Lordship in 1832.

[3] "Asseyez-vous, mes enfans."—"Il n'y a pas de quoi, mon Seigneur."

ADVERTISEMENT.[1]

1830.

Missing or lost, last Sunday night,
A Waterloo coin, whereon was trac'd
The' inscription, "Courage!" in letters bright,
Though a little by rust of years defac'd.

The metal thereof is rough and hard,
And ('tis thought of late) mix'd up with brass;
But it bears the stamp of Fame's award,
And through all Posterity's hands will pass.

How it was lost, God only knows,
But certain *City* thieves they say,
Broke in on the owner's evening doze,
And filch'd this "gift of gods" away!

One ne'er could, of course, the Cits suspect,
If we hadn't, that evening, chanc'd to see,
At the robb'd man's door, a *Mare* elect,
With an ass to keep her company.

Whosoe'er of this lost treasure knows,
Is begg'd to state all facts about it,
As the owner can't well face his foes,
Nor even his friends, just now, without it.

And if Sir Clod will bring it back,
Like a trusty Baronet, wise and able,
He shall have a ride on the whitest hack[2]
That's left in old King George's stable.

MISSING.

Carlton Terrace, 1832.

Whereas, Lord * * * * * * de * * * * * *
Left his home last Saturday,
And, though inquir'd for, round and round,
Through certain purlieus, can't be found;
And whereas, none can solve our queries
As to where this virtuous Peer is,
Notice is hereby given that all
May forthwith to inquiring fall,
As, once the thing's well set about,
No doubt but we shall hunt him out.

His Lordship's mind, of late, they say,
Hath been in an uneasy way
Himself and colleagues not being let
To climb into the Cabinet,
To settle England's state affairs,
Hath much, it seems, *un*settled theirs;
And chief to this stray Plenipo
Hath been a most distressing blow.
Already,—certain to receive a
Well-paid mission to the Neva,
And be the bearer of kind words
To tyrant Nick from Tory Lords,—
To fit himself for free discussion,
His Lordship had been learning Russian;
And all so natural to him were
The accents of the Northern bear,
That, while his tones were in your ear, you
Might swear you were in sweet Siberia.
And still, poor Peer, to old and young,
He goes on raving in that tongue;
Tells you how much you would enjoy a
Trip to Dalnodoubrowskoya;[3]
Talks of such places, by the score, on
As Oulisfflirmchinagoboron,[4]
And swears (for he at nothing sticks)
That Russia swarms with Raskol-niks,[5]
Though *one* such Nick, God knows, must be
A more than ample quantity.

Such are the marks by which to know
This stray'd or stolen Plenipo;
And whosoever brings or sends
The unhappy statesman to his friends,
On Carlton Terrace, shall have thanks,
And—any paper but the Bank's.

P.S.—Some think, the disappearance
Of this our diplomatic Peer hence
Is for the purpose of reviewing,
In person, what dear Mig is doing
So as to 'scape all tell-tale letters
'Bout B—s—d, and such abettors,—
The only "wretches" for whose aid[5]
Letters seem *not* to have been made.

[1] Written at that memorable crisis when a distinguished Duke, then Prime Minister, acting under the inspirations of Sir Cl—d—s H—nt—r and other City worthies, advised his Majesty to give up his announced intention of dining with the Lord Mayor.

[2] Among other remarkable attributes by which Sir Cl—d—s distinguished himself, the dazzling whiteness of his favourite steed was not the least conspicuous.

[3] In the Government of Perm.

[4] Territory belonging to the mines of Kolivano-Kosskressense.

[5] The name of a religious sect in Russia. "Il existe en Russie plusieurs sectes; la plus nombreuse est celle des Raskol-niks, ou vrai-croyants."—Gamba, *Voyage dans la Russie Méridionale*.

"Heav'n first taught letters for some wretch's aid."
Pope.

THE DANCE OF BISHOPS;

OR, THE EPISCOPAL QUADRILLE.[1]

A DREAM.

1833.

"Solemn dances were, on great festivals and celebrations, admitted among the primitive Christians, in which even the Bishops and dignified Clergy were performers. Scaliger says, that the first Bishops were called *Præsules*[2], for no other reason than that they led off these dances." — *Cyclopædia*, art. *Dances*.

I've had such a dream — a frightful dream —
Though funny, mayhap, to wags 'twill seem,
By all who regard the Church, like us,
'Twill be thought exceedingly ominous!

As reading in bed I lay last night —
Which (being insured) is my delight —
I happen'd to doze off just as I got to
The singular fact which forms my motto.
Only think, thought I, as I doz'd away,
Of a party of Churchmen dancing the hay!
Clerks, curates, and rectors, capering all,
With a neat-legg'd Bishop to open the ball!

Scarce had my eyelids time to close,
When the scene I had fancied before me rose —
An Episcopal Hop, on a scale so grand
As my dazzled eyes could hardly stand.
For, Britain and Erin clubb'd their Sees
To make it a Dance of Dignities,
And I saw — oh brightest of Church events!
A quadrille of the two Establishments,
Bishop to Bishop *vis-à-vis*,
Footing away prodigiously.

There was Bristol capering up to Derry,
And Cork with London making merry;
While huge Llandaff, with a See, so so,
Was to dear old Dublin pointing his toe.
There was Chester, hatch'd by woman's smile,
Performing a *chaîne des Dames* in style;
While he who, whene'er the Lords' House dozes,
Can waken them up by citing Moses,[3]
The portly Tuam was all in a hurry
To set, *en avant*, to Canterbury.

Meantime, while pamphlets stuff'd his pockets,
(All out of date, like spent sky-rockets,)
Our Exeter stood forth to caper,
As high on the floor as he doth on paper —
Much like a dapper Dancing Dervise,
Who pirouettes his whole church-service —
Performing, 'midst those reverend souls,
Such *entrechats*, such *cabrioles*,
Such *balonnés*[4], such — rigmaroles,
Now high, now low, now this, now that,
That none could guess, what the devil he'd be at;
Though, watching his various steps, some thought
That a step in the Church was all he sought.

But alas, alas! while thus so gay,
These reverend dancers frisk'd away,
Nor Paul himself (not the saint, but he
Of the Opera-house) could brisker be,
There gather'd a gloom around their glee —
A shadow, which came and went so fast,
That ere one could say, "'Tis there," 'twas past —
And, lo, when the scene again was clear'd,
Ten of the dancers had disappear'd!
Ten able-bodied quadrillers swept
From the hallow'd floor where late they stept,
While twelve was all that footed it still,
On the Irish side of that grand Quadrille!

Nor this the worst: — still danc'd they on,
But the pomp was sadden'd, the smile was gone;
And again, from time to time, the same
Ill-omen'd darkness round them came —
While still, as the light broke out anew,
Their ranks look'd less by a dozen or two;
Till ah! at last there were only found
Just Bishops enough for a four-hands-round;
And when I awoke, impatient getting,
I left the last holy pair *pousseting!*

N. B. — As ladies in years, it seems,
Have the happiest knack at solving dreams,
I shall leave to my ancient feminine friends
Of the *Standard* to say what *this* portends.

DICK * * * *.

A CHARACTER.

Of various scraps and fragments built,
Borrow'd alike from fools and wits,

[1] Written on the passing of the memorable Bill, in the year 1833, for the abolition of ten Irish Bishoprics.

[2] Literally, First Dancers.

[3] "And what does Moses say?" — One of the ejaculations with which this eminent prelate enlivened his famous speech on the Catholic question.

[4] A description of the method of executing this step may be useful to future performers in the same line: — "Ce pas est composé de deux mouvemens différens, savoir, *plier*, et sauter sur *un* pied, et se rejeter sur *l'autre*."—*Dictionnaire de Danse*, art. *Contre-temps*.

Dick's mind was like a patchwork quilt,
Made up of new, old, motley bits—
Where, if the *Co.* call'd in their shares,
If petticoats their quota got,
And gowns were all refunded theirs,
The quilt would look but shy, God wot.

And thus he still, new plagiaries seeking,
Revers'd ventriloquism's trick,
For, 'stead of Dick through others speaking,
'Twas others we heard speak through Dick.
A Tory now, all bounds exceeding,
Now best of Whigs, now worst of rats;
One day, with Malthus, foe to breeding,
The next, with Sadler, all for brats.

Poor Dick!—and how else could it be?
With notions all at random caught,
A sort of mental fricassee,
Made up of legs and wings of thought—
The leavings of the last Debate, or
A dinner, yesterday, of wits,
Where Dick sat by, and, like a waiter,
Had the scraps for perquisites.

A CORRECTED REPORT OF SOME LATE SPEECHES.

"Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that saint."

1834.

St. S—ncl—r rose and declar'd in sooth,
That he wouldn't give sixpence to Maynooth.
He had hated priests the whole of his life,
For a priest was a man who had no wife,[1]
And, having no wife, the Church was his mother,
The Church was his father, sister, and brother.
This being the case, he was sorry to say,
That a gulf 'twixt Papist and Protestant lay,[2]
So deep and wide, scarce possible was it
To say even "how d'ye do?" across it:

And though your Liberals, nimble as fleas,
Could clear such gulfs with perfect ease,
'Twas a jump that nought on earth could make
Your proper, heavy-built Christian take.
No, no,—if a Dance of Sects *must* be,
He would set to the Baptist willingly,[3]
At the Independent deign to smirk,
And rigadoon with old Mother Kirk;
Nay even, for once, if needs must be,
He'd take hands round with all the three;
But, as to a jig with Popery, no,—
To the Harlot ne'er would he point his toe.

St. M—n—d—v—le was the next that rose,—
A Saint who round, as pedlar, goes,
With his pack of piety and prose,
Heavy and hot enough, God knows,—
And he said that Papists were much inclin'd
To extirpate all of Protestant kind,
Which he couldn't, in truth, so much condemn,
Having rather a wish to extirpate *them*;
That is,—to guard against mistake,—
To extirpate them for their doctrine's sake;
A distinction Churchmen always make,—
Insomuch that, when they've prime control,
Though sometimes roasting heretics whole,
They but cook the body for sake of the soul.

Next jump'd St. J—hnst—n jollily forth,
The spiritual Dogberry of the North,[4]
A right "wise fellow, and, what's more,
An officer[5]," like his type of yore;
And he ask'd, if we grant such toleration,
Pray, what's the use of our Reformation?[6]
What is the use of our Church and State?
Our Bishops, Articles, Tithe, and Rate?
And, still as he yell'd out "what's the use?"
Old Echoes, from their cells recluse
Where they'd for centuries slept, broke loose,
Yelling responsive. "*What's the use?*"

---

[1] "He objected to the maintenance and education of a clergy *bound by the particular vows of celibacy, which, as it were, gave them the church as their only family, making it fill the places of father and mother and brother.*"—Debate on the Grant to Maynooth College, *The Times*, April 19.

[2] "It had always appeared to him that *between the Catholic and Protestant a great gulf* intervened, which rendered it impossible," &c.

[3] "The Baptist might acceptably extend the offices of religion to the Presbyterian and the Independent, or the member of the Church of England to any of the other three; but the Catholic," &c.

[4] "Could he then, holding as he did a spiritual office in the Church of Scotland, (cries of hear, and laughter,) with any consistency give his consent to a grant of money?" &c.

[5] "I am a wise fellow, and, which is more, an officer." *Much Ado about Nothing.*

[6] "What, he asked, was the use of the Reformation? What was the use of the Articles of the Church of England, or of the Church of Scotland?" &c.

MORAL POSITIONS,

A DREAM.

" His Lordship said that it took a long time for a moral position to find its way across the Atlantic. He was very sorry that its voyage had been so long," &c. — Speech of Lord Dudley and Ward on Colonial Slavery, March 8.

T'OTHER night, after hearing Lord Dudley's oration
(A treat that comes once a-year as May-day does),
I dreamt that I saw — what a strange operation!
A " moral position " shipp'd off for Barbadoes.

The whole Bench of Bishops stood by in grave attitudes,
Packing the article tidy and neat; —
As their Rev'rences know, that in southerly latitudes
" Moral positions " don't keep very sweet.

There was B—th—st arranging the custom-house pass; [routing,
And, to guard the frail package from tousing and
There stood my Lord Eld—n, endorsing it " Glass,"
Though as to which side should lie uppermost, doubting.

The freight was, however, stow'd safe in the hold;
The winds were polite, and the moon look'd romantic, [roll'd,
While off in the good ship " The Truth " we were
With our ethical cargo, across the Atlantic.

Long, dolefully long, seem'd the voyage we made;
For " The Truth," at all times but a very slow sailer,
By friends, near as much as by foes, is delay'd,
And few come aboard her, though so many hail her.

At length, safe arriv'd, I went through " tare and tret,"
Deliver'd my goods in the primest condition,"
And next morning read, in the *Bridgetown Gazette*,
" Just arriv'd by ' The Truth,' a new moral position."

" The Captain "— here, startled to find myself nam'd
As " the Captain " — (a thing which, I own it with pain, [asham'd,
I through life have avoided,) I woke — look'd
Found I *wasn't* a captain, and doz'd off again.

[1] Eclipses and comets have been always looked to as great changers of administrations. Thus Milton, speaking of the former: —

" With fear of change
Perplexing monarchs."

And in Statius we find,

" Mutant quæ sceptra cometæ."

[2] See, for some of these Protocols, the Annual Register, for the year 1832.

THE MAD TORY AND THE COMET.

FOUNDED ON A LATE DISTRESSING INCIDENT.

1832.

" Mutantem regna cometem." LUCAN.[1]

" THOUGH all the pet mischiefs we count upon, fail,
" Though Cholera, hurricanes, Wellington leave us,
" We've still in reserve, mighty Comet, thy tail; —
" Last hope of the Tories, wilt thou too deceive us?

No — 'tis coming, 'tis coming, the' avenger is nigh;
" Heed, heed not, ye placemen, how Herapath flatters;
" One whisk from that tail, as it passes us by,
" Will settle, at once, all political matters; —

" The East-India Question, the Bank, the Five Powers,
" Now turn'd into two) with their rigmarole Protocols; —[2]
" Ha! ha! ye gods, how this new friend of ours
" Will knock, right and left, all diplomacy's what-d'ye-calls!

" Yes, rather than Whigs at our downfall should mock,
" Meet planets, and suns, in one general hustle!
" While, happy in vengeance, we welcome the shock
" That shall jerk from their places, Grey, Althorp, and Russell."

Thus spoke a mad Lord, as, with telescope rais'd,
His wild Tory eye on the heavens he set;
And, though nothing destructive appear'd as he gaz'd,
Much hop'd that there *would*, before Parliament met.

And still, as odd shapes seem'd to flit through his glass,
" Ha! there it is now," the poor maniac cries;
While his fancy with forms but too monstrous, alas!
From his own Tory zodiac, peoples the skies: —

" Now I spy a big body, good heavens, how big!
" Whether Bucky[1] or Taurus I cannot well say:—
" And, yonder, there's Eld—n's old Chancery-wig,
" In its dusty aphelion fast fading away.

" I see, 'mong those fatuous meteors behind,
" L—nd—nd—ry, *in vacuo*, flaring about;—
" While that dim double star, of the nebulous kind,
" Is the Gemini, R—den and L—rt—n, no doubt.

" Ah, El—b'r—h! 'faith, I first thought 'twas the Comet;
" So like that in Milton, it made me quite pale;
" The head with the same 'horrid hair'[2] coming from it,
" And plenty of vapour, but — where is the tail?"

Just then, up aloft jump'd the gazer elated—
For, lo, his bright glass a phenomenon show'd,
Which he took to be C—mb—rl—d, *upwards* translated,
Instead of his natural course, *t'other* road!

But too awful that sight for a spirit so shaken,—
Down dropp'd the poor Tory in fits and grimaces,
Then off to the Bedlam in Charles Street was [taken,
And is now one of Halford's most favourite cases.

FROM THE HON. HENRY ——, TO LADY EMMA ——.

Paris, March 30. 1832.

You bid me explain, my dear angry Ma'amselle,
How I came thus to bolt without saying farewell;
And the truth is,—as truth you *will* have, my sweet railer,—
There are two worthy persons I always feel loth
To take leave of at starting,—my mistress and tailor,—
As somehow one always has *scenes* with them both;
The Snip in ill-humour, the Syren in tears,
She calling on Heaven, and he on the' attorney,—
Till sometimes, in short, 'twixt his duns and his dears,
A young gentleman risks being stopp'd in his journey.

But, to come to the point,—though you think, I dare say,
That 'tis debt or the Cholera drives me away,
'Pon honour you're wrong;—such a mere bagatelle
As a pestilence, nobody, now-a-days, fears;
And the fact is, my love, I'm thus bolting, pell-mell,
To get out of the way of these horrid new Peers;[3]
This deluge of coronets, frightful to think of,
Which England is now, for her sins, on the brink of;
This coinage of *nobles*,—coin'd, all of 'em, badly,
And sure to bring Counts to a *dis*count most sadly.

Only think, to have Lords overrunning the nation,
As plenty as frogs in a Dutch inundation;
No shelter from Barons, from Earls no protection,
And tadpole young Lords, too, in every direction,—
Things created in haste, just to make a Court list of,
Two legs and a coronet all they consist of!
The prospect's quite frightful, and what Sir George R—se
(My particular friend) says is perfectly true,
That, so dire the alternative, nobody knows,
'Twixt the Peers and the Pestilence, what he's to do;
And Sir George even doubts,—could he choose his disorder,—
'Twixt coffin and coronet, *which* he would order.

This being the case, why, I thought, my dear Emma,
'Twere best to fight shy of so curs'd a dilemma;
And though I confess myself somewhat a villain,
To've left *idol mio* without an *addio*,
Console your sweet heart, and, a week hence, from Milan
I'll send you—some news of Bellini's last trio.

N. B.—Have just pack'd up my travelling set-out,
Things a tourist in Italy *can't* go without—
Viz., a pair of *gants gras*, from old Houbigant's shop,
Good for hands that the air of Mont Cenis might chap.
Small presents for ladies,—and nothing so wheedles
The creatures abroad as your golden-eyed needles.
A neat pocket Horace, by which folks are cozen'd
To think one knows Latin, when—one, perhaps, doesn't;
With some little book about heathen mythology,
Just large enough to refresh one's theology;

[1] The D—e of B—ck—m.

[2] " And from his horrid hair
Shakes pestilence and war."

[3] A new creation of Peers was generally expected at this time.

Nothing on earth being half such a bore as
Not knowing the difference 'twixt Virgins and Floras.
Once more, love, farewell, best regards to the girls,
And mind you beware of damp feet and new Earls.

HENRY.

TRIUMPH OF BIGOTRY.

"COLLEGE. — We announced, in our last, that Lefroy and Shaw were returned. They were chaired yesterday; the Students of the College determined, it would seem, to imitate the mob in all things, harnessing themselves to the car, and the Masters of Arts bearing Orange flags and bludgeons before, beside, and behind the car."

Dublin Evening Post, Dec. 20. 1832.

AY, yoke ye to the bigots' car,
Ye chosen of Alma Mater's scions;—
Fleet chargers drew the God of War,
Great Cybele was drawn by lions,
And Sylvan Pan, as Poets dream,
Drove four young panthers in his team.
Thus classical L—fr—y, for once, is,
Thus, studious of a like turn-out,
He harnesses young sucking dunces,
To draw him, as their Chief, about,
And let the world a picture see
Of Dulness yok'd to Bigotry:
Showing us how young College hacks
Can pace with bigots at their backs,
As though the cubs were *born* to draw
Such luggage as L—fr—y and Sh—w.

Oh shade of Goldsmith, shade of Swift,
Bright spirits whom, in days of yore,
This Queen of Dulness sent adrift,
As aliens to her foggy shore;—[1]
Shade of our glorious Grattan, too,
Whose very name her shame recalls;
Whose effigy her bigot crew
Revers'd upon their monkish walls,—[2]
Bear witness (lest the world should doubt)
To your mute Mother's dull renown,
Then famous but for Wit turn'd *out*,
And Eloquence *turn'd upside down*;
But now ordain'd new wreaths to win,
Beyond all fame of former days,
By breaking thus young donkies in
To draw M. P.s, amid the brays
Alike of donkies and M. A.s;—
Defying Oxford to surpass 'em
In this new "Gradus ad Parnassum."

[1] See the lives of these two poets for the circumstances under which they left Dublin College.

[2] In the year 1799, the Board of Trinity College, Dublin, thought proper, as a mode of expressing their disapprobation of Mr. Grattan's public conduct, to order his portrait, in the Great Hall of the University, to be turned upside down, and in this position it remained for some time.

TRANSLATION FROM THE GULL LANGUAGE.

Scripta manet.

1833.

'TWAS grav'd on the Stone of Destiny,[3]
In letters four, and letters three;
And ne'er did the King of the Gulls go by
But those awful letters scar'd his eye;
For he knew that a Prophet Voice had said,
"As long as those words by man were read,
"The ancient race of the Gulls should ne'er
"One hour of peace or plenty share."
But years on years successive flew,
And the letters still more legible grew,—
At top, a T, an H, an E,
And underneath, D. E. B. T.

Some thought them Hebrew,—such as Jews,
More skill'd in Scrip than Scripture, use;
While some surmis'd 'twas an ancient way
Of keeping accounts, (well known in the day
Of the fam'd Didlerius Jeremias,
Who had thereto a wonderful bias,)
And prov'd in books most learnedly boring,
'Twas called the Pon*tick* way of scoring.

Howe'er this be, there never were yet
Seven letters of the alphabet,
That, 'twixt them form'd so grim a spell,
Or scar'd a Land of Gulls so well,
As did this awful riddle-me-ree
Of T. H. E. D. E. B. T.

* * * * *

Hark!—it is struggling Freedom's cry;
"Help, help, ye nations, or I die;
"'Tis freedom's fight, and, on the field
"Where I expire, *your* doom is seal'd."
The Gull-King hears the awakening call,
He hath summon'd his Peers and Patriots all,

[3] Liafail, or the Stone of Destiny,—for which, see Westminster Abbey.

And he asks, "Ye noble Gulls, shall we
"Stand basely by at the fall of the Free,
"Nor utter a curse, nor deal a blow?"
And they answer, with voice of thunder, "No."

Out fly their flashing swords in the air!—
But,—why do they rest suspended there?
What sudden blight, what baleful charm,
Hath chill'd each eye, and check'd each arm?
Alas! some withering hand hath thrown
The veil from off that fatal stone,
And pointing now, with sapless finger,
Showeth where dark those letters linger,—
Letters four, and letters three,
T. H. E. D. E. B. T.

At sight thereof, each lifted brand
Powerless falls from every hand;
In vain the Patriot knits his brow,—
Even talk, his staple, fails him now.
In vain the King like a hero treads,
His Lords of the Treasury shake their heads;
And to all his talk of "brave and free,"
No answer getteth His Majesty
But "T. H. E. D. E. B. T."

In short, the whole Gull nation feels
They're fairly spell-bound, neck and heels;
And so, in the face of the laughing world,
Must e'en sit down, with banners furl'd,
Adjourning all their dreams sublime
Of glory and war to—some other time.

NOTIONS ON REFORM.

BY A MODERN REFORMER.

Of all the misfortunes as yet brought to pass
By this comet-like Bill, with its long tail of speeches,
The saddest and worst is the schism which, alas!
It has caus'd between W—th—r—l's waistcoat and breeches.

Some symptoms of this Anti-Union propensity
Had oft broken out in that quarter before;
But the breach, since the Bill, has attain'd such immensity,
Daniel himself could have scarce wish'd it more.

Oh! haste to repair it, ye friends of good order,
Ye Atw—ds and W—nns, ere the moment is past;
Who can doubt that we tread upon Anarchy's border,
When the ties that should hold men are loosening so fast?

Make W—th—r—l yield to "some sort of Reform"
(As we all must, God help us! with very wry faces),
And loud as he likes let him bluster and storm
About Corporate Rights, so he'll only wear braces.

Should those he now sports have been long in possession,
And, like his own borough, the worse for the wear,
Advise him, at least, as a prudent concession
To Intellect's progress, to buy a new pair.

Oh! who that e'er saw him, when vocal he stands,
With a look something midway 'twixt Filch's and Lockit's,
While still, to inspire him, his deeply thrust hands
Keep jingling the rhino in both breeches-pockets—

Who that ever has listen'd, through groan and through cough,
To the speeches inspir'd by this music of pence,—
But must grieve that there's any thing like *falling off*
In that great nether source of his wit and his sense?

Who that knows how he look'd when, with grace debonair,
He began first to court—rather late in the season—
Or when, less fastidious, he sat in the chair
Of his old friend, the Nottingham Goddess of Reason;[1]

That Goddess, whose borough-like virtue attracted
All mongers in *both* wares to proffer their love;
Whose chair like the stool of the Pythoness acted,
As W—th—r—l's rants, ever since, go to prove;[2]

Who, in short, would not grieve, if a man of his graces
Should go on rejecting, unwarn'd by the past,
The "moderate Reform" of a pair of new braces,
Till, some day,—he'll all fall to pieces at last.

[1] It will be recollected that the learned gentleman himself boasted one night in the House of Commons, of having sat in the very chair which this allegorical lady had occupied.

[2] Lucan's description of the effects of the tripod on the appearance and voice of the sitter, shows that the symptoms fare, at least very similar:

Spumea tunc primum rabies vesana per ora
Effluit . . . . . .
tunc mœstus vastis ululatus in antris.

TORY PLEDGES.

I PLEDGE myself through thick and thin,
To labour still, with zeal devout,
To get the Outs, poor devils, in,
And turn the Inns, the wretches, out.

I pledge myself, though much bereft
Of ways and means of ruling ill,
To make the most of what are left,
And stick to all that's rotten still.

Though gone the days of place and pelf,
And drones no more take all the honey,
I pledge myself to cram myself
With all I can of public money;

To quarter on that social purse
My nephews, nieces, sisters, brothers,
Nor, so *we* prosper, care a curse
How much 'tis at the' expense of others.

I pledge myself, whenever Right
And Might on any point divide,
Not to ask which is black or white,
But take, at once, the strongest side.

For instance, in all Tithe discussions,
I'm *for* the Reverend encroachers:—
I loathe the Poles, applaud the Russians,—
Am *for* the Squires *against* the Poachers.

Betwixt the Corn-Lords and the Poor
I've not the slightest hesitation,—
The people *must* be starv'd to' insure
The Land its due remuneration.

I pledge myself to be no more
With Ireland's wrongs bepros'd or shamm'd,—
I vote her grievances a *bore*,
So she may suffer, and be d—d.

Or if she kick, let it console us,
We still have plenty of red coats,
To cram the Church, that general bolus,
Down any giv'n amount of throats.

I dearly love the Frankfort Diet,—
Think newspapers the worst of crimes;
And would, to give some chance of quiet,
Hang all the writers of The Times;

Break all their correspondents' bones,
All authors of "Reply," "Rejoinder,"
From the Anti-Tory, Colonel J—es,
To the Anti-Suttee, Mr. P—ynd—r.

Such are the Pledges I propose;
And though I can't now offer gold,
There's many a way of buying those
Who've but the taste for being sold.

So here's, with three times three hurrahs,
A toast, of which you'll not complain,—
"Long life to jobbing; may the days
Of Peculation shine again!"

ST. JEROME ON EARTH.

FIRST VISIT.

1832.

As St. Jerome, who died some ages ago,
Was sitting, one day, in the shades below,
"I've heard much of English bishops," quoth he,
"And shall now take a trip to earth, to see
"How far they agree, in their lives and ways,
"With our good old bishops of ancient days."

He had learn'd—but learn'd without misgivings—
Their love for good living, and eke good livings;
Not knowing (as ne'er having taken degrees)
That good *living* means claret and fricassees,
While its plural means simply—pluralities.
"From all I hear," said the innocent man,
"They are quite on the good old primitive plan.
"For wealth and pomp they little can care,
"As they all say '*No*' to the' Episcopal chair;
"And their vestal virtue it well denotes,
"That they all, good men, wear petticoats."

Thus saying, post-haste to earth he hurries,
And knocks at the' Archbishop of Canterbury's.
The door was oped by a lackey in lace,
Saying, "What's your business with his Grace?"
"His grace!" quoth Jerome—for pos'd was he,
Not knowing what *sort* this Grace could be;
Whether Grace *preventing*, Grace *particular*,
Grace of that breed called *Quinquarticular*[1]—
In short, he rummag'd his holy mind,
The' exact description of Grace to find,
Which thus could represented be
By a footman in full livery.

[1] So called from the proceedings of the Synod of Dort.

At last, out loud in a laugh he broke,
(For dearly the good saint lov'd his joke) [1]
And said—surveying, as sly he spoke,
The costly palace from roof to base—
" Well, it isn't, at least, a *saving* Grace!"
" Umph," said the lackey, a man of few words,
" The' Archbishop is gone to the House of Lords."
" To the House of the Lord, you mean, my son,
" For in *my* time, at least, there was but one;
" Unless such many-*fold* priests as these
" Seek, ev'n in their LORD, pluralities!" [2]
" No time for gab," quoth the man in lace:
Then, slamming the door in St. Jerome's face,
With a curse to the single knockers all,
Went to finish his port in the servants' hall,
And propose a toast (humanely meant
To include even Curates in its extent)
" To all as *serves* the' Establishment."

ST. JEROME ON EARTH.

SECOND VISIT.

" This much I dare say, that, since *lording* and loitering hath come up, preaching hath come down, contrary to the Apostles' times. For they preached and *lorded* not: and now they *lord* and preach not . . . . . Ever since the Prelates were made Lords and Nobles, the plough standeth; there is no work done, the people starve." — *Latimer, Sermon of the Plough.*

" ONCE more," said Jerome, " I'll run up and see
How the Church goes on,"—and off set he.
Just then the packet-boat, which trades
Betwixt our planet and the shades,
Had arriv'd below, with a freight so queer,
" My eyes!" said Jerome, " what have we here?"—
For he saw, when nearer he explor'd,
They'd a cargo of Bishops' wigs aboard.
" They are ghosts of wigs," said Charon, " all,
" Once worn by nobs Episcopal.[3]
" For folks on earth, who've got a store
" Of cast off things they'll want no more,
" Oft send them down, as gifts, you know,
" To a certain Gentleman here below."

" A sign of the times, I plainly see,"
Said the Saint to himself as, pondering, he
Sail'd off in the death-boat gallantly.

Arriv'd on earth, quoth he, " No more
" I'll affect a body, as before;
" For I think I'd best, in the company
" Of Spiritual Lords, a spirit be,
" And glide, unseen, from See to See."
But oh! to tell what scenes he saw,—
It was more than Rabelais' pen could draw.
For instance, he found Ex—t—r,
Soul, body, inkstand, all in a stir,—
For love of God? for sake of King?
For good of people?—no such thing;
But to get for himself, by some new trick,
A shove to a better bishoprick.

He found that pious soul, Van M—ld—t,
Much with his money-bags bewilder'd;
Snubbing the Clerks of the Diocess, [4]
Because the rogues showed restlessness
At having too little cash to touch,
While he so Christianly bears too much.
He found old Sarum's wits as gone
As his own beloved text in John,—[5]
Text he hath prosed so long upon,
That 'tis thought when ask'd, at the gate of heaven,
His name, he'll answer " John, v. 7."

" But enough of Bishops I've had to-day,"
Said the weary Saint,—" I must away.
" Though I own I should like, before I go,
" To see for once (as I'm ask'd below
" If really such odd sights exist)
" A regular six-fold Pluralist."
Just then he heard a general cry—
" There's Doctor Hodgson galloping by!"
" Ay, that's the man," says the Saint, " to follow,"
And off he sets, with a loud view-hollo,
At Hodgson's heels, to catch, if he can,
A glimpse of this singular plural man.
But,—talk of Sir Boyle Roche's bird! [6]
To compare him with Hodgson is absurd.
" Which way, sir, pray, is the doctor gone?"—
" He is now at his living at Hillingdon."—
" No, no,—you're out, by many a mile,
" He's away at his Deanery, in Carlisle."—

[1] Witness his well known pun on the name of his adversary, Vigilantius, whom he calls facetiously Dormitantius.

[2] The suspicion attached to some of the early Fathers of being Arians in their doctrine would appear to derive some confirmation from this passage.

[3] The wig, which had so long formed an essential part of the dress of an English bishop, was at this time beginning to be dispensed with.

[4] See the Bishop's Letter to Clergy of his Diocese.

[5] 1 John, v. 7. A text which, though long given up by all the rest of the orthodox world, is still pertinaciously adhered to by this Right Reverend scholar.

[6] It was a saying of the well-known Sir Boyle, that "a man could not be in two places at once, unless he was a bird."

" Pardon me, sir; but I understand
" He's gone to his living in Cumberland."—
" God bless me, no,—he can't be there;
" You must try St. George's, Hanover Square."

Thus all in vain the Saint inquir'd,
From living to living, mock'd and tir'd;—
'Twas Hodgson here, 'twas Hodgson there,
'Twas Hodgson nowhere, everywhere;
Till, fairly beat, the Saint gave o'er,
And flitted away to the Stygian shore,
To astonish the natives under ground
With the comical things he on earth had found.

THOUGHTS ON TAR BARRELS.

(VIDE DESCRIPTION OF A LATE FÊTE.[1])

1832.

WHAT a pleasing contrivance! how aptly devis'd
'Twixt tar and magnolias to puzzle one's noses!
And how the tar-barrels must all be surpris'd
To find themselves seated like "Love among roses!"

What a pity we can't, by precautions like these,
Clear the air of that other still viler infection;
That radical pest, that old whiggish disease,
Of which cases, true-blue, are in every direction.

'Stead of barrels, let's light up an Auto da Fé
Of a few good combustible Lords of "the Club;"
They would fume, in a trice, the Whig cholera away,
And there's B—cky would burn like a barrel of bub.

How R—d—n would blaze! and what rubbish throw out!
A volcano of nonsense, in active display;
While V—ne, as a butt, amidst laughter, would spout
The hot nothings he's full of, all night and all day.

And then, for a finish, there's C—mb—d's Duke,—
Good Lord, how his chin-tuft would crackle in air!
Unless (as is shrewdly surmis'd from his look)
He's already bespoke for combustion elsewhere.

[1] The M——s of H—tf—d's Fête.—From dread of cholera his Lordship had ordered tar-barrels to be burned in every direction.

[2] These verses, as well as some others that follow, (p. 551.) were extorted from me by that lamentable measure of the Whig ministry, the Irish Coercion Act.

THE CONSULTATION.[2]

" When they *do* agree, their unanimity is wonderful."
The Critic.

1833.

Scene discovers Dr. Whig and Dr. Tory in consultation. Patient on the floor between them.

Dr. Whig.—THIS wild Irish patient *does* pester me so,
That what to do with him, I'm curst if I know;
I've *promis'd* him anodynes———
Dr. Tory. Anodynes!—Stuff.
Tie him down—gag him well—he'll be tranquil enough.
That's *my* mode of practice.
Dr. Whig. True, quite in *your* line,
But unluckily not much, till lately, in *mine.*
'Tis so painful——
Dr. Tory—Pooh, nonsense—ask Ude how he feels,
When, for Epicure feasts, he prepares his live eels,
By flinging them in, 'twixt the bars of the fire,
And letting them wriggle on there till they tire.
He, too, says "'tis painful"—"quite makes his heart bleed"—
But "your eels are a vile, oleaginous breed."—
He would fain use them gently, but Cookery says "No,"
And—in short—eels were *born* to be treated just so.[3]
'Tis the same with these Irish,—who're odder fish still,—
Your tender Whig heart shrinks from using them ill;
I, myself, in my youth, ere I came to get wise,
Used, at some operations, to blush to the eyes;—
But, in fact, my dear brother,—if I may make bold
To style you, as Peachum did Lockit, of old,—
We, Doctors, *must* act with the firmness of Ude,
And, indifferent like him,—so the fish is *but* stew'd,—
Must torture live Pats for the general good,
[*Here patient groans and kicks a little.*
Dr. Whig.—But what, if one's patient's so devilish perverse,
That he *wo'n't* be thus tortur'd?
Dr. Tory. Coerce, sir, coerce.

[3] This eminent artist, in the second edition of the work wherein he propounds this mode of purifying his eels, professes himself much concerned at the charge of inhumanity brought against his practice, but still begs leave respectfully to repeat that it *is* the only proper mode of preparing eels for the table.

You're a juvenile performer, but once you begin,
You can't think how fast you may train your hand in:
And (*smiling*) who knows but old Tory may take to the shelf,
With the comforting thought that, in place and in pelf,
He's succeeded by one just as—bad as himself?
Dr. Whig (*looking flattered*).—Why, to tell you the truth, I've a small matter here,
Which you help'd me to make for my patient last year,—
[*Goes to a cupboard and brings out a strait waistcoat and gag.*
And such rest I've enjoy'd from his raving since then,
That I have made up my mind he shall wear it again.
Dr. Tory (*embracing him*).—Oh, charming!
My dear Doctor Whig, you're a treasure.
Next to torturing *myself*, to help *you* is a pleasure.
[*Assisting Dr. Whig.*
Give me leave—I've some practice in these mad machines;
There—tighter—the gag in the mouth, by all means.
Delightful!—all's snug—not a squeak need you fear,—
You may now put your anodynes off till next year.
[*Scene closes.*

TO THE REV. CH—RL—S OV—RT—N,

CURATE OF ROMALDKIRK.

AUTHOR OF THE POETICAL PORTRAITURE OF THE CHURCH.[1]

1833.

SWEET singer of Romaldkirk, thou who art reckon'd,
By critics Episcopal, David the Second,[2]
If thus, as a Curate, so lofty your flight,
Only think, in a Rectory, how you *would* write!
Once fairly inspir'd by the "Tithe-crown'd Apollo,"
(Who beats, I confess it, our *lay* Phœbus hollow,
Having gotten, besides the old *Nine*'s inspiration,
The *Tenth* of all eatable things in creation,)
There's nothing, in fact, that a poet like you,
So be-*nin'd* and be-*tenth'd*, couldn't easily do.
Round the lips of the sweet-tongued Athenian[3] they say,
While yet but a babe in his cradle he lay,
Wild honey-bees swarm'd, as a presage to tell
Of the sweet-flowing words that thence afterwards fell.
Just so round our Ov—rt—n's cradle, no doubt,
Tenth ducklings and chicks were seen flitting about;
Goose embryos, waiting their doom'd decimation,
Came, shadowing forth his adult destination,
And small, sucking tithe-pigs, in musical droves,
Announc'd the Church poet whom Chester approves.

O Horace! when thou, in thy vision of yore,
Didst dream that a snowy-white plumage come o'er
Thy etherealis'd limbs, stealing downily on,
Till, by Fancy's strong spell, thou wert turn'd to a swan,[4]
Little thought'st thou such fate could a poet befall,
Without any effort of fancy, at all;
Little thought'st thou the world would in Ov—rt—n find
A bird, ready-made, somewhat different in kind,
But as perfect as Michaelmas' self could produce,
By gods yclept *anser*, by mortals a *goose*.

SCENE

FROM A PLAY, ACTED AT OXFORD, CALLED "MATRICULATION."[5]

1834.

[Boy discovered at a table, with the Thirty-nine Articles before him.—Enter the Rt. Rev. Doctor Ph—lip—ts.]

Doctor P.—THERE, my lad, lie the Articles—(*Boy begins to count them*) just thirty-nine—
No occasion to count—you've now only to sign.
At Cambridge, where folks are less High-church than we,
The whole Nine-and-Thirty are lump'd into Three.

[1] See Edinburgh Review, No. 117.

[2] "Your Lordship," says Mr. Ov—rt—n, in the Dedication of his Poem to the Bishop of Chester, "has kindly expressed your persuasion that my 'Muse will always be a Muse of sacred song, and that *it will be tuned as David's was.*'"

[3] Sophocles.

[4] —— album mutor in alitem
Superne: nascunturque læves
Per digitos, humerosque plumæ.

[5] "It appears that when a youth of fifteen goes to be matriculated at Oxford, and is required first to subscribe Thirty-nine Articles of Religious Belief, this only means that he engages himself afterwards to understand what is now above his comprehension; that he expresses no assent at all to what he signs; and that he is (or, *ought* to be) at full liberty, when he has studied the subject, to withdraw his provisional assent."—*Edinburgh Review*, No. 120.

Let's run o'er the items;—there's Justification,
Predestination, and Supererogation,—
Not forgetting Salvation and Creed Athanasian,
Till we reach, at last, Queen Bess's Ratification.
That's sufficient—now, sign—having read quite enough,
You "believe in the full and true meaning thereof?"
(*Boy stares.*)
Oh, a mere form of words, to make things smooth and brief,—
A commodious and short make-believe of belief,
Which our Church has drawn up, in a form thus articular,
To keep out, in general, all who're particular.
But what's the boy doing? what! reading all through,
And my luncheon fast cooling!—this never will do.
Boy (*poring over the Articles.*)—Here are points which—pray, Doctor, what's "Grace of Congruity?"
Doctor P. (*sharply*).—You'll find out, young sir, when you've more ingenuity.
At present, by signing, you pledge yourself merely,
Whate'er it may be, to believe it sincerely.
Both in *dining* and *signing* we take the same plan,—
First, swallow all down, then digest—as we can.
Boy (*still reading*).—I've to gulp, I see, St. Athanasius's Creed,
Which, I'm told, is a very tough morsel, indeed;
As he damns——
Doctor P. (*aside*).—Ay, and so would *I*, willingly, too,
All confounded particular young boobies, like you.
This comes of Reforming!—all's o'er with our land,
When people wo'n't stand what they can't *understand*;
Nor perceive that our ever-rever'd Thirty-Nine
Were made, not for men to *believe*, but to *sign*.
[*Exit Dr. P. in a passion.*

LATE TITHE CASE.

"Sic vos non vobis."

1833.

"The Vicar of B—mh—m desires me to state that, in consequence of the passing of a recent Act of Parliament, he is compelled to adopt measures which may by some be considered harsh or precipitate; but, *in duty to what he owes to his successors*, he feels bound to preserve the rights of the vicarage."—*Letter from Mr. S. Powell*, August 6.

No, *not* for yourselves, ye reverend men,
Do you take one pig in every ten,
But for Holy Church's future heirs,
Who've an abstract right to that pig, as theirs;—
The law supposing that such heirs male
Are already seised of the pig, in tail.
No, *not* for himself hath B—mh—m's priest
His "well-belov'd" of their pennies fleec'd:
But it is that, before his prescient eyes,
All future Vicars of B—mh—m rise,
With their embryo daughters, nephews, nieces,
And 'tis for *them* the poor he fleeces.
He heareth their voices, ages hence,
Saying "Take the pig"—"oh take the pence;"
The cries of little Vicarial dears,
The unborn B—mh—mites, reach his ears;
And, did he resist that soft appeal,
He would *not* like a true-born Vicar feel.

Thou, too, L—ndy of L—ck—ngt—n!
A Rector true, if e'er there was one,
Who, for sake of the L—ndies of coming ages,
Gripest the tenths of labourers' wages.[1]
'Tis true, in the pockets of *thy* small-clothes
The claim'd "obvention[2]" of four-pence goes;
But its abstract spirit, unconfin'd,
Spreads to all future Rector-kind,
Warning them all to their rights to wake,
And rather to face the block, the stake,
Than give up their darling right *to take*.

One grain of musk, it is said, perfumes
(So subtle its spirit) a thousand rooms,
And a single four-pence, pocketed well,
Through a thousand rectors' lives will tell.
Then still continue, ye reverend souls,
And still as your rich Pactolus rolls,
Grasp every penny on every side,
From every wretch, to swell its tide:
Remembering still what the Law lays down,
In that pure poetic style of its own,
"If the parson *in esse* submits to loss, he
"Inflicts the same on the parson *in posse*."

FOOL'S PARADISE.

DREAM THE FIRST.

I HAVE been, like Puck, I have been, in a trice,
To a realm they call Fools' Paradise,

[1] Fourteen agricultural labourers (one of whom received so little as six guineas for yearly wages, one eight, one nine, another ten guineas, and the best paid of the whole not more than 18*l.* annually) were all, in the course of the autumn of 1832, served with demands of tithe at the rate of 4*d.* in the 1*l.* sterling, on behalf of the Rev. F. L—dy, Rector of ——, &c. &c.—*The Times*, August 1833.

[2] One of the various general terms under which oblations, tithes, &c. are comprised.

Lying N. N. E. of the Land of Sense,
And seldom bless'd with a glimmer thence.
But they want it not in this happy place,
Where a light of its own gilds every face;
Or, if some wear a shadowy brow,
'Tis the *wish* to look wise, — not knowing *how*.
Self-glory glistens o'er all that's there,
The trees, the flowers have a jaunty air;
The well-bred wind in a whisper blows,
The snow, if it snows, is *couleur de rose*,
The falling founts in a titter fall,
And the sun looks simpering down on all.

Oh, 'tisn't in tongue or pen to trace
The scenes I saw in that joyous place.
There were Lords and Ladies sitting together,
In converse sweet, "What charming weather! —
"You'll all rejoice to hear, I'm sure,
"Lord Charles has got a good sinecure;
"And the Premier says, my youngest brother
"(Him in the Guards) shall have another.
"Isn't this very, *very* gallant! —
"As for my poor old virgin aunt,
"Who has lost her all, poor thing, at whist,
"We must quarter *her* on the Pension List."
Thus smoothly time in that Eden roll'd;
It seem'd like an Age of *real* gold,
Where all who lik'd might have a slice,
So rich was that Fool's Paradise.

But the sport at which most time they spent,
Was a puppet-show, called Parliament,
Perform'd by wooden Ciceros,
As large as life, who rose to prose,
While, hid behind them, lords and squires,
Who own'd the puppets, pull'd the wires;
And thought it the very best device
Of that most prosperous Paradise,
To make the vulgar pay through the nose
For them and their wooden Ciceros.

And many more such things I saw
In this Eden of Church, and State, and Law;
Nor e'er were known such pleasant folk
As those who had the *best* of the joke.
There were Irish Rectors, such as resort
To Cheltenham yearly, to drink — port,
And bumper, "Long may the Church endure,
May her cure of souls be a sinecure,
And a score of Parsons to every soul
A moderate allowance on the whole."
There were Heads of Colleges, lying about,
From which the sense had all run out,
Even to the lowest classic lees,
Till nothing was left but *quantities*;
Which made them heads most fit to be
Stuck up on a University,
Which yearly hatches, in its schools,
Such flights of young Elysian fools.

Thus all went on, so snug and nice,
In this happiest possible Paradise.
But plain it was to see, alas!
That a downfall soon must come to pass.
For grief is a lot the good and wise
Don't quite so much monopolise,
But that ("lapt in Elysium" as they are)
Even blessed fools must have their share.
And so it happen'd: — but what befell,
In Dream the Second I mean to tell.

THE RECTOR AND HIS CURATE;

OR, ONE POUND TWO.

"I trust we shall part, as we met, in peace and charity. My last payment to you paid your salary up to the 1st of this month. Since that, I owe you for one month, which, being a long month, of thirty-one days, amounts, as near as I can calculate, to six pounds eight shillings. My steward returns you as a debtor to the amount of SEVEN POUNDS TEN SHILLINGS FOR CON-ACRE-GROUND, which leaves some trifling balance in my favour." — *Letter of Dismissal from the Rev. Marcus Beresford to his Curate, the Rev. T. A. Lyons.*

THE account is balanc'd — the bill drawn out, —
The debit and credit all right, no doubt —
The Rector, rolling in wealth and state,
Owes to his Curate six pound eight;
The Curate, that *least* well-fed of men,
Owes to his Rector seven pound ten,
Which maketh the balance clearly due
From Curate to Rector, one pound two.

Ah balance, on earth unfair, uneven!
But sure to be all set right in heaven,
Where bills like these will be check'd, some day,
And the balance settled the other way:
Where Lyons the curate's hard-wrung sum
Will back to his shade with interest come;
And Marcus, the rector, deep may rue
This tot, in his favour, of one pound two.

PADDY'S METAMORPHOSIS.[1]

1833.

About fifty years since, in the days of our daddies,
That plan was commenc'd which the wise now applaud,
Of shipping off Ireland's most turbulent Paddies,
As good raw materials for *settlers*, abroad.

Some West-Indian island, whose name I forget,
Was the region then chosen for this scheme so romantic;
And such the success the first colony met,
That a second, soon after, set sail o'er the' Atlantic.

Behold them now safe at the long-look'd for shore,
Sailing in between banks that the Shannon might greet,
And thinking of friends whom, but two years before,
They had sorrow'd to lose, but would soon again meet.

And, hark! from the shore a glad welcome there came—
"Arrah, Paddy from Cork, is it you, my sweet boy?"
While Pat stood astounded, to hear his own name
Thus hail'd by black devils, who caper'd for joy!

Can it possibly be?—half amazement—half doubt,
Pat listens again—rubs his eyes and looks steady;
Then heaves a deep sigh, and in horror yells out,
"Good Lord! only think—black and curly already!"

Deceiv'd by that well-mimick'd brogue in his ears,
Pat read his own doom in these wool-headed figures,
And thought, what a climate, in less than two years,
To turn a whole cargo of Pats into niggers!

MORAL.

'Tis thus,—but alas!—by a marvel more true
Than is told in this rival of Ovid's best stories,—
Your Whigs, when in office a short year or two,
By a *lusus naturæ*, all turn into Tories.

[1] I have already in a preceding page referred to this squib, as being one of those wrung from me by the Irish Coercion Act of my friends, the Whigs.

And thus, when I hear them "strong measures" advise,
Ere the seats that they sit on have time to get steady,
I say, while I listen, with tears in my eyes,
"Good Lord!—only think,—black and curly already!"

COCKER, ON CHURCH REFORM.

FOUNDED UPON SOME LATE CALCULATIONS.

1833.

Fine figures of speech let your orators follow,
Old Cocker has figures that beat them all hollow;
Though fam'd for his rules Aristotle may be,
In but *half* of this Sage any merit I see,
For, as honest Joe Hume says, the "*tottle*"[2] for me!

For instance, while others discuss and debate,
It is thus about Bishops *I* ratiocinate.

In England, where, spite of the infidel's laughter,
'Tis certain our souls are look'd *very* well after,
Two Bishops can well (if judiciously sunder'd)
Of parishes manage two thousand two hundred,—
Said number of parishes, under said teachers,
Containing three millions of Protestant creatures,—
So that each of said Bishops full ably controls
One million and five hundred thousands of souls.
And now comes old Cocker. In Ireland we're told,
Half a million includes the whole Protestant fold;
If, therefore, for *three* million souls 'tis conceded
Two proper-sized Bishops are all that is needed,
'Tis plain, for the Irish *half* million who want 'em,
One third of *one* Bishop is just the right quantum.
And thus, by old Cocker's sublime Rule of Three,
The Irish Church question's resolv'd to a T;
Keeping always that excellent maxim in view,
That, in saving men's souls, we must save money too.

Nay, if—as St. Roden complains is the case—
The half million of *soul* is decreasing apace,
The demand, too, for *bishop* will also fall off,
Till the *tithe* of one, taken in kind, be enough.
But, as fractions imply that we'd have to dissect,
And to cutting up Bishops I strongly object,
We've a small, fractious prelate whom well we could spare,
Who has just the same decimal worth, to a hair;
And, not to leave Ireland too much in the lurch,
We'll let her have Ex—t—r, *sole*[3], as her Church.

[2] The *total*,—so pronounced by this industrious senator.
[3] Corporation sole.

LES HOMMES AUTOMATES.

1834.

"We are persuaded that this our artificial man will not only walk and speak, and perform most of the outward functions of animal life, but (being wound up once a week) will perhaps reason as well as most of your country parsons."— *Memoirs of Martinus Scriblerus*, chap. xii.

It being an object now to meet
With Parsons that don't want to eat,
Fit men to fill those Irish rectories,
Which soon will have but scant refectories,
It has been suggested,—lest that Church
Should, all at once, be left in the lurch,
For want of reverend men endued
With this gift of ne'er requiring food,—
To try, by way of experiment, whether
There couldn't be made, of wood and leather, [1]
(Howe'er the notion may sound chimerical,)
Jointed figures not *lay* [2], but clerical,
Which, wound up carefully once a week,
Might just like parsons look and speak,
Nay even, if requisite, reason too,
As well as most Irish parsons do.

The' experiment having succeeded quite,
(Whereat those Lords must much delight,
Who've shown, by stopping the Church's food,
They think it isn't for her spiritual good
To be serv'd by parsons of flesh and blood,)
The Patentees of this new invention
Beg leave respectfully to mention,
They now are enabled to produce
An ample supply, for present use,
Of these reverend pieces of machinery,
Ready for vicarage, rectory, deanery,
Or any such-like post of skill
That wood and leather are fit to fill.

N.B.—In places addicted to arson,
We can't recommend a wooden parson:
But, if the Church any such appoints,
They'd better, at least, have iron joints.
In parts, not much by Protestants haunted,
A figure to *look at*'s all that's wanted—
A block in black, to eat and sleep,
Which (now that the eating's o'er) comes cheap.

P.S.—Should the Lords, by way of a treat,
Permit the clergy again to eat,
The Church will, of course, no longer need
Imitation-parsons that never feed;
And these *wood* creatures of ours will sell
For secular purposes just as well—
Our Beresfords, turn'd to bludgeons stout,
May, 'stead of beating their own about,
Be knocking the brains of Papists out;
While our smooth O'Sullivans, by all means,
Should transmigrate into *turning* machines.

[1] The materials of which those Nuremberg Savans, mentioned by Scriblerus, constructed their artificial man.

[2] The wooden models used by painters are, it is well known, called "lay figures."

HOW TO MAKE ONE'S SELF A PEER,

ACCORDING TO THE NEWEST RECEIPT, AS DISCLOSED IN A LATE HERALDIC WORK.[3]

1834.

Choose some title that's dormant—the Peerage hath many—
Lord Baron of Shamdos sounds nobly as any.
Next, catch a dead cousin of said defunct Peer,
And marry him off-hand, in some given year,
To the daughter of somebody,—no matter who,—
Fig, the grocer himself, if you're hard run, will do;
For, the Medici *pills* still in heraldry tell,
And why shouldn't *lollypops* quarter as well?
Thus, having your couple, and one a lord's cousin,
Young materials for peers may be had by the dozen;
And 'tis hard if, inventing each small mother's son of 'em,
You can't somehow manage to prove *yourself* one of 'em.
Should registers, deeds, and such matters refractory,
Stand in the way of this lord-manufactory,
I've merely to hint, as a secret auricular,
One *grand* rule of enterprise,—*don't* be particular.
A man who once takes such a jump at nobility,
Must *not* mince the matter, like folks of nihility,[4]
But clear thick and thin with true lordly agility.

'Tis true, to a would-be descendant from Kings,
Parish-registers sometimes are troublesome things;
As oft, when the vision is near brought about,
Some goblin, in shape of a grocer, grins out;
Or some barber, perhaps, with my Lord mingles bloods,
And one's patent of peerage is left in the suds.

But there *are* ways—when folks are resolv'd to be lords—
Of expurging ev'n troublesome parish records:

[3] The Claim to the barony of Chandos (if I recollect right) advanced by the late Sir Eg—r—t—n Br—d—s.

[4] "This we call pure nihility, or mere nothing."— *Watts's Logic.*

What think ye of scissors? depend on't no heir
Of a Shamdos should go unsupplied with a pair,
As, whate'er *else* the learn'd in such lore may invent,
Your scissors does wonders in proving descent.
Yes, poets may sing of those terrible shears
With which Atropos snips off both bumpkins and peers,
But they're nought to that weapon which shines in the hands
Of some would-be Patrician, when proudly he stands
O'er the careless churchwarden's baptismal array,
And sweeps at each cut generations away.
By some babe of old times in his peerage resisted?
One snip,—and the urchin hath *never* existed!
Does some marriage, in days near the Flood, interfere
With his one sublime object of being a Peer?
Quick the shears at once nullify bridegroom and bride,—
No such people have ever liv'd, married, or died!

Such the newest receipt for those high-minded elves,
Who've a fancy for making great lords of themselves.
Follow this, young aspirer, who pant'st for a peerage,
Take S—m for thy model and B—z for thy steerage,
Do all and much worse than old Nicholas Flam does,
And—*who* knows but you'll be Lord Baron of Shamdos?

THE DUKE IS THE LAD.

Air.—A master I have, and I am his man,
Galloping dreary dun."
Castle of Andalusia.

The Duke is the lad to frighten a lass,
Galloping, dreary duke;
The Duke is the lad to frighten a lass,
He's an ogre to meet, and the d—l to pass,
With his charger prancing,
Grim eye glancing,
Chin, like a Mufti,
Grizzled and tufty,
Galloping, dreary Duke.

Ye misses, beware of the neighbourhood
Of this galloping dreary Duke;
Avoid him, all who see no good
In being run o'er by a Prince of the Blood.
For, surely, no nymph is
Fond of a grim phiz,
And of the married,
Whole crowds have miscarried
At sight of this dreary Duke.

EPISTLE

FROM ERASMUS ON EARTH TO CICERO IN THE SHADES.

Southampton.

As 'tis now, my dear Tully, some weeks since I started
By rail-road, for earth, having vow'd, ere we parted,
To drop you a line, by the Dead-Letter post,
Just to say how I thrive, in my new line of ghost,
And how deucedly odd this live world all appears,
To a man who's been dead now for three hundred years,
I take up my pen, and, with news of this earth,
Hope to waken, by turns, both your spleen and your mirth.

In my way to these shores, taking Italy first,
Lest the change from Elysium too sudden should burst,
I forgot not to visit those haunts where, of yore,
You took lessons from Pætus in cookery's lore,[1]
Turn'd aside from the calls of the rostrum and Muse,
To discuss the rich merits of *rôtis* and stews,
And preferr'd to all honours of triumph or trophy,
A supper on prawns with that rogue, little Sophy.[2]

Having dwelt on such classical musings awhile,
I set-off, by a steam-boat, for this happy isle,
(A conveyance *you* ne'er, I think, sail'd by, my Tully,
And therefore, *per* next, I'll describe it more fully,)
Having heard, on the way, what distresses me greatly,
That England's o'er-run by *idolaters* lately,
Stark, staring adorers of wood and of stone,
Who will let neither stick, stock, or statue alone.
Such the sad news I heard from a tall man in black,
Who from sports continental was hurrying back,
To look after his tithes;—seeing, doubtless, 'twould follow,
That, just as, of old, your great idol, Apollo,

[1] See his Letters to Friends, lib. ix. epist. 19, 20, &c.

[2] Ingentium squillarum cum Sophia Septimiæ.—Lib. ix. epist. 10.

Devour'd all the Tenths[1], so the idols in question,
These wood and stone gods, may have equal digestion,
And the' idolatrous crew, whom this Rector despises,
May eat up the tithe-pig which *he* idolizes.

London.

'Tis all but too true—grim Idolatry reigns,
In full pomp, over England's lost cities and plains!
On arriving just now, as my first thought and care
Was, as usual, to seek out some near House of Prayer,
Some calm, holy spot, fit for Christians to pray on,
I was shown to—what think you?—a downright Pantheon!
A grand, pillar'd temple, with niches and halls,[2]
Full of idols and gods, which they nickname St. Paul's;—
Though 'tis clearly the place where the idolatrous crew,
Whom the Rector complain'd of, their dark rites pursue;
And, 'mong all the "strange gods" Abraham's father carv'd out,[3]
That he ever carv'd *stranger* than these I much doubt.

Were it even, my dear TULLY, your Hebes and Graces,
And such pretty things, that usurp'd the Saints' places,
I shouldn't much mind,—for, in this classic dome,
Such folks from Olympus would feel quite at home.
But the gods they've got here!—such a queer omnium gatherum
Of misbegot things, that no poet would father 'em;—
Britannias, in light, summer-wear for the skies,—
Old Thames, turn'd to stone, to his no small surprise,—
Father Nile, too,—a portrait, (in spite of what's said,
That no mortal e'er yet got a glimpse of his head,[4])
And a Ganges, which India would think somewhat fat for't,
Unless 'twas some full-grown Director had sat for't;—
Not to mention the' *et cæteras* of Genii and Sphinxes,
Fame, Victory, and other such semi-clad minxes;—
Sea Captains[5],—the idols here most idolised;
And of whom some, alas, might too well be comprised
Among ready-made Saints, as they died *cannon*-ised;—
With a multitude more of odd cockneyfied deities,
Shrined in such pomp that quite shocking to see it 'tis;
Nor know I what better the Rector could do
Than to shrine there his own belov'd quadruped too;
As most surely a tithe-pig, whate'er the world thinks, is
A much fitter beast for a church than a Sphinx is.

But I'm call'd off to dinner—grace just has been said,
And my host waits for nobody, living or dead.

LINES[6]

ON THE DEPARTURE OF LORDS C—ST—R—GH AND ST—W—RT FOR THE CONTINENT.

At Paris[7] et Fratres, et qui rapuêre sub illis,
Vix tenuêre manus (scis hoc, Menelaë) nefandas.
OVID. *Metam.* lib. xiii. v. 202.

Go, Brothers in wisdom—go, bright pair of Peers,
And may Cupid and Fame fan you both with their pinions!
The *one*, the best lover we have—*of his years*,
And the *other* Prime Statesman of Britain's dominions.

Go, Hero of Chancery, blest with the smile
Of the Misses that love, and the monarchs that prize thee;
Forget Mrs. Ang—lo T—yl—r awhile,
And all tailors but him who so well *dandifies* thee.

Never mind how thy juniors in gallantry scoff,
Never heed how perverse affidavits may thwart thee,
But show the young Misses thou'rt scholar enough
To translate "Amor Fortis" a love, *about forty!*

[1] Tithes were paid to the Pythian Apollo.
[2] See Dr. Wiseman's learned and able letter to Mr. Poynder.
[3] Joshua, xxiv. 2.
[4] ——"Nec contigit ulli
Hoc vidisse caput." CLAUDIAN.
[5] Captains Mosse, Riou, &c. &c.

[6] This and the following squib, which must have been written about the year 1815-16, have been by some oversight misplaced.
[7] Ovid is mistaken in saying that it was "at Paris" these rapacious transactions took place—we should read "at Vienna."

And sure 'tis no wonder, when, fresh as young Mars,
From the battle you came, with the Orders you'd earn'd in't,
That sweet Lady Fanny should cry out "My *stars!*"
And forget that the *Moon*, too, was some way concern'd in't.

For not the great R—g—t himself has endur'd
(Though I've seen him with badges and orders all shine,
Till he looked like a house that was *over* insur'd)
A much heavier burden of glories than thine.

And 'tis plain, when a wealthy young lady so mad is,
Or *any* young ladies can so go astray,
As to marry old Dandies that might be their daddies,
The *stars* [1] are in fault, my Lord St—w—rt, not they!

Thou, too, t'other brother, thou Tully of Tories,
Thou *Malaprop* Cicero, over whose lips
Such a smooth rigmarole about "monarchs," and "glories,"
And "*nullidge* [2]," and "features," like syllabub slips.

Go, haste, at the Congress pursue thy vocation
Of adding fresh sums to this National Debt of ours,
Leaguing with Kings, who, for mere recreation,
Break promises, fast as your Lordship breaks metaphors.

Fare ye well, fare ye well, bright Pair of Peers,
And may Cupid and Fame fan you both with their pinions!
The one, the best lover we have—*of his years*,
And the other, Prime Statesman of Britain's dominions.

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1 "When weak women go astray,
The stars are more in fault than they."

2 It is thus the noble lord pronounces the word "knowledge"—deriving it, as far as his own share is concerned, from the Latin, "nullus."

3 Sic te Diva potens Cypri,
Sic fratres Helenæ, lucida sidera,
Ventorumque regat pater,

4 See a description of the ασκοι, or *Bags* of Eolus, in the Odyssey, lib. 10.

5 Navis, quæ tibi creditum
Debes Virgilium.

6 —— Animæ dimidium meum.

TO THE SHIP

IN WHICH LORD C—ST—R—GH SAILED FOR THE CONTINENT.

Imitated from Horace, lib. i. ode 3.

So may my Lady's prayers prevail,[3]
And C—nn—g's too, and *lucid* Br—gge's,
And Eld—n beg a favouring gale
From Eolus, that *older* Bags,[4]
To speed thee on thy destin'd way,
Oh ship, that bear'st our C—st—r—gh,[5]
Our gracious R—g—t's better half,[6]
And, *therefore*, quarter of a King—
(As Van, or any other calf,
May find, without much figuring).
Waft him, oh ye kindly breezes,
Waft this Lord of place and pelf,
Any where his Lordship pleases,
Though 'twere to Old Nick himself!

Oh, what a face of brass was his,[7]
Who first at Congress show'd his phiz—
To sign away the Rights of Man
To Russian threats and Austrian juggle;
And leave the sinking African[8]
To fall without one saving struggle—
'Mong ministers from North and South,
To shew his lack of shame and sense,
And hoist the Sign of "Bull and Mouth"
For blunders and for eloquence!

In vain we wish our *Secs.* at home[9]
To mind their papers, desks, and shelves,
If silly *Secs.* abroad *will* roam,
And make such noodles of themselves.

But such hath always been the case—
For matchless impudence of face,
There's nothing like your Tory race![10]
First, Pitt[11], the chosen of England, taught her
A taste for famine, fire, and slaughter.

7 Illi robur et æs triplex
Circa pectus erat, qui, &c.

8 ——— præcipitem Africum
Decertantem Aquilonibus.

9 Nequicquam Deus abscidit
Prudens oceano dissociabili
Terras, si tamen impiæ
Non tangenda *Rates* transiliunt vada.

This last line, we may suppose, alludes to some distinguished *Rats* that attended the voyager.

10 Audax omnia perpeti
Gens ruit per vetitum nefas.

11 Audax Japeti genus
Ignem fraude malâ gentibus intulit.

Then came the Doctor[1], for our ease,
With E—d—ns, Ch—th—ms, H—wk—b—s,
And other deadly maladies.
When each, in turn, had run their rigs,
Necessity brought in the Whigs:[2]
And oh, I blush, I blush to say,
When these, in turn, were put to flight, too,
Illustrious T—MP—E flew away
With *lots of pens he had no right to!*[3]
In short, what *will* not mortal man do?[4]
And now, that—strife and bloodshed past—
We've done on earth what harm we can do,
We gravely take to heaven at last,[5]
And think its favourite smile to purchase
(Oh Lord, good Lord!) by—building churches!

SKETCH OF THE FIRST ACT OF A NEW ROMANTIC DRAMA.

"AND now," quoth the goddess, in accents jocose,
"Having got good materials, I'll brew such a dose
"Of Double X mischief as, mortals shall say,
"They've not known its equal for many a long day."
Here she wink'd to her subaltern imps to be steady,
And all wagg'd their fire-tipp'd tails and stood ready.

"So, now for the' ingredients:—first, hand me
that bishop;"
Whereon, a whole bevy of imps run to fish up,
From out a large reservoir, wherein they pen 'em,
The blackest of all its black dabblers in venom;
And wrapping him up (lest the virus should ooze,
And one "drop of the' immortal[6]" Right Rev.[7]
they might lose)
In the sheets of his own speeches, charges, reviews,
Pop him into the caldron, while loudly a burst
From the by-standers welcomes ingredient the first!

"Now fetch the Ex-Chancellor," mutter'd the
dame—
"He who's call'd after Harry the Older, by name."
"The Ex-Chancellor!" echoed her imps, the
whole crew of 'em—
"Why talk of *one* Ex, when your Mischief has
two of 'em?"

"True, true," said the hag, looking arch at her
elves,
"And a double-*Ex* dose they compose, in them-
selves."
This joke, the sly meaning of which was seen lucidly,
Set all the devils a laughing most deucedly,
So, in went the pair, and (what none thought
surprising)
Show'd talents for sinking as great as for rising;
While not a grim phiz in that realm but was
lighted
With joy to see spirits so twin-like united—
Or (plainly to speak) two such birds of a feather,
In one mess of venom thus spitted together.
Here a flashy imp rose—some connection, no doubt,
Of the young lord in question—and, scowling
about,
"Hop'd his fiery friend, St—nl—y, would not be
left out;
"As no schoolboy unwhipp'd, the whole world
must agree,
"Lov'd mischief, *pure* mischief, more dearly than
he."

But, no—the wise hag wouldn't hear of the
whipster;
Not merely because, as a shrew, he eclips'd her,
And nature had given him, to keep him still young,
Much tongue in his head and no head in his tongue;
But because she well knew that, for change ever
ready,
He'd not even to mischief keep properly steady;
That soon even the *wrong* side would cease to delight,
And, for want of a change, he must swerve to the
right;
While, on *each*, so at random his missiles he threw,
That the side he attack'd was most safe of the two.—
This ingredient was therefore put by on the shelf,
There to bubble, a bitter, hot mess, by itself.
"And now," quoth the hag, as her caldron she ey'd,
And the titbits so friendlily rankling inside,
"There wants but some seasoning;—so, come,
ere I stew 'em,
"By way of a relish, we'll throw in '+ John Tuam.'
"In cooking up mischief, there's no flesh or fish
"Like your meddling High Priest, to add zest to
the dish."
Thus saying, she pops in the Irish Grand Lama—
Which great event ends the First Act of the Drama.

1 Post . . . . .
. . . macies, et nova febrium
Terris incubit cohors.

2 ——— tarda necessitas
Lethi corripuit gradum.

3 Expertus *vacuum* Dædalus aëra
Pennis non homini datis.

This alludes to the 1200*l.* worth of stationery, which his Lordship is said to have ordered, when on the point of *vacating* his place.

4 Nil mortalibus arduum est.

5 Cœlum ipsum petimus stultitiâ.

6 "To lose no drop of the immortal man."

7 The present Bishop of Ex—t—r.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

THOUGH fam'd was Mesmer, in his day,
Nor less so, in ours, is Dupotet,
To say nothing of all the wonders done
By that wizard, Dr. Elliotson,
When, standing as if the gods to invoke, he
Up waves his arm, and—down drops Okey![1]

Though strange these things, to mind and sense,
If you wish still stranger things to see—
If you wish to know the power immense
Of the true magnetic influence,
Just go to her Majesty's Treasury,
And learn the wonders working there—
And I'll be hang'd if you don't stare!
Talk of your animal magnetists,
And that wave of the hand no soul resists,
Not all its witcheries can compete
With the friendly beckon towards Downing Street,
Which a Premier gives to one who wishes
To taste of the Treasury loaves and fishes.
It actually lifts the lucky elf,
Thus acted upon, *above* himself;—
He jumps to a state of *clairvoyance*,
And is placeman, statesman, all, at once!

These effects observe (with which I begin),
Take place when the patient's motion'd *in*;
Far different, of course, the mode of affection,
When the wave of the hand's in the *out* direction;
The effects being then extremely unpleasant,
As is seen in the case of Lord B——m, at present;
In whom this sort of manipulation
Has lately produc'd such inflammation,
Attended with constant irritation,
That, in short—not to mince his situation—
It has work'd in the man a transformation
That puzzles all human calculation!

Ever since the fatal day which saw
That "pass[2]" perform'd on this Lord of Law—
A pass potential, none can doubt,
As it sent Harry B——m to the right about—
The condition in which the patient has been
Is a thing quite awful to be seen.
Not that a casual eye could scan
This wondrous change by outward survey;
It being, in fact, the' *interior* man
That's turn'd completely topsy-turvy:—
Like a case that lately, in reading o'er 'em,
I found in the *Acta Eruditorum*,

Of a man in whose inside, when disclos'd,
The whole order of things was found transpos'd;[3]
By a *lusus naturæ*, strange to see,
The liver plac'd where the heart should be,
And the *spleen* (like B——m's, since laid on the shelf)
As diseas'd and as much *out of place* as himself.

In short, 'tis a case for consultation,
If e'er there was one, in this thinking nation;
And therefore I humbly beg to propose,
That those *savans* who mean, as the rumour goes,
To sit on Miss Okey's wonderful case,
Should also Lord Harry's case embrace;
And inform us, in *both* these patients' states,
Which *ism* it is that predominates,
Whether magnetism and somnambulism,
Or, simply and solely, mountebankism.

THE SONG OF THE BOX.

LET History boast of her Romans and Spartans,
And tell how they stood against tyranny's shocks;
They were all, I confess, in *my* eye, Betty Martins,
Compar'd to George Gr—te and his wonderful Box.

Ask, where Liberty now has her seat?—Oh, it isn't
By Delaware's banks or on Switzerland's rocks;—
Like an imp in some conjuror's bottle imprison'd,
She's slily shut up in Gr—te's wonderful Box.

How snug!—'stead of floating through ether's dominions,
Blown *this* way and *that*, by the "populi vox,"
To fold thus in silence her sinecure pinions,
And go fast asleep in Gr—te's wonderful Box.

Time was, when free speech was the life-breath of freedom—
So thought once the Seldens, the Hampdens, the Lockes;
But mute be *our* troops, when to ambush we lead 'em,
For "Mum" is the word with us Knights of the Box.

Pure, exquisite Box! no corruption can soil it;
There's Otto of Rose, in each breath it unlocks;

[1] The name of the heroine of the performances at the North London Hospital.

[2] The technical term for the movements of the magnetizer's hand.

[3] Omnes ferè internas corporis partes inverso ordine sitas. — *Act. Erudit.* 1690.

While Gr—te is the "Betty," that serves at the toilet,
And breathes all Arabia around from his Box.[1]

'Tis a singular fact, that the fam'd Hugo Grotius[2]
(A namesake of Gr—te's — being both of Dutch stocks),
Like Gr—te, too, a genius profound as precocious,
Was also, like him, much renown'd for a Box;—

An immortal old clothes-box, in which the great Grotius
When suffering, in prison, for views heterodox,
Was pack'd up incog., spite of gaolers ferocious,[3]
And sent to his wife[4], carriage free, in a Box!

But the fame of old Hugo now rests on the shelf,
Since a rival hath risen that all parallel mocks;—
That Grotius ingloriously sav'd but himself,
While *ours* saves the whole British realm by a Box!

And oh when, at last, even this greatest of Gr—tes
Must bend to the Power that at every door knocks,[5]
May he drop in the urn like his own "silent votes,"
And the tomb of his rest be a large Ballot-Box.

While long at his shrine, both from county and city,
Shall pilgrims triennially gather in flocks,
And sing, while they whimper, the' appropriate ditty,
"Oh breathe not his *name*, let it sleep — in the Box."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW THALABA.

ADDRESSED TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, ESQ.

WHEN erst, my Southey, thy tuneful tongue
The terrible tale of Thalaba sung —
Of him, the Destroyer, doom'd to rout
That grim divan of conjurors out,
Whose dwelling dark, as legends say,
Beneath the roots of the ocean lay,
(Fit place for deep ones, such as they,)
How little thou knew'st, dear Dr. Southey,
Although bright genius all allow thee,
That, some years thence, thy wond'ring eyes
Should see a second Thalaba rise —
As ripe for ruinous rigs as thine,
Though his havoc lie in a different line,
And should find this new, improv'd Destroyer
Beneath the wig of a Yankee lawyer;
A sort of an "alien," *alias* man,
Whose country or party guess who can,
Being Cockney half, half Jonathan;
And his life, to make the thing completer,
Being all in the genuine Thalaba metre,
Loose and irregular as thy feet are;—
First, into Whig Pindarics rambling,
Then in low Tory doggrel scrambling;
Now *love* his theme, now *Church* his glory
(At once both Tory and ama-tory),
Now in the' Old Bailey-*lay* meandering,
Now in soft *couplet* style philandering;
And, lastly, in lame Alexandrine,
Dragging his wounded length along,[6]
When scourg'd by Holland's silken thong.

In short, dear Bob, Destroyer the Second
May fairly a match for the First be reckon'd;
Save that *your* Thalaba's talent lay
In sweeping old conjurors clean away,
While ours at aldermen deals his blows,
(Who no great conjurors are, God knows,)
Lays Corporations, by wholesale, level,
Sends Acts of Parliament to the devil,
Bullies the whole Milesian race —
Seven millions of Paddies, face to face;
And, seizing that magic wand, himself,
Which erst thy conjurors left on the shelf,
Transforms the boys of the Boyne and Liffey
All into *foreigners*, in a jiffey —
Aliens, outcasts, every soul of 'em,
Born but for whips and chains, the whole of 'em!

Never, in short, did parallel
Betwixt two heroes *gee* so well;
And, among the points in which they fit,
There's one, dear Bob, I can't omit.

[1] And all Arabia breathes from yonder box
POPE's *Rape of the Lock*.

[2] *Groot*, or *Grote*, Latinized into Grotius.

[3] For the particulars of this escape of Grotius from the Castle of Louvenstein, by means of a box (only three feet and a half long, it is said) in which books used to be occasionally sent to him and foul linen returned, see any of the Biographical Dictionaries.

[4] This is not quite according to the facts of the case; his wife having been the contriver of the stratagem, and remained in the prison herself to give him time for escape.

[5] Pallida Mors æquo pulsat pede, &c. — HORAT.

[6] "A needless Alexandrine ends the song
That, *like a wounded snake*, drags its slow length along."

That hacking, hectoring blade of thine
Dealt much in the *Domdaniel* line ;[1]
And 'tis but rendering justice due,
To say that ours and his Tory crew
Damn Daniel most devoutly too.

RIVAL TOPICS.[2]

AN EXTRAVAGANZA.

Oh W—ll—ngt—n and Stephenson,
Oh morn and evening papers,
Times, Herald, Courier, Globe, and Sun,
When will ye cease our ears to stun
With these two heroes' capers ?
Still "Stephenson" and "W—ll—ngt—n,"
The everlasting two ! —
Still doom'd, from rise to set of sun,
To hear what mischief one has done,
And t'other means to do : —
What bills the banker pass'd to friends,
But never meant to pay ;
What Bills the other wight intends,
As honest, in their way ; —
Bills, payable at distant sight,
Beyond the Grecian kalends,
When all good deeds will come to light,
When W—ll—ngt—n will do what's right,
And Rowland pay his balance.

To catch the banker all have sought,
But still the rogue unhurt is ;
While t'other juggler—who'd have thought?
Though slippery long, has just been caught
By old Archbishop Curtis ; —
And, such the power of papal crook,
The crosier scarce had quiver'd
About his ears, when, lo, the Duke
Was of a Bull deliver'd !

Sir Richard Birnie doth decide
That Rowland "must be mad,"
In private coach, with crest, to ride,
When chaises could be had.
And t'other hero, all agree,
St. Luke's will soon arrive at,
If thus he shows off publicly,
When he might pass in private.

Oh W—ll—ngt—n, oh Stephenson,
Ye ever-boring pair,
Where'er I sit, or stand, or run,
Ye haunt me every where.
Though Job had patience tough enough,
Such duplicates would try it ;
Till one's turn'd out and t'other off,
We shan't have peace or quiet.
But small's the chance that Law affords—
Such folks are daily let off ;
And, 'twixt the' Old Bailey and the Lords,
They both, I fear, will get off.

THE BOY STATESMAN.

BY A TORY.

"That boy will be the death of me." *Mathews at Home.*

Ah, Tories dear, our ruin is near,
With St—nl—y to help us, we can't but fall ;
Already a warning voice I hear,
Like the late Charles Mathews' croak in my ear,
"That boy—that boy'll be the death of you all."

He will, God help us ! —not even Scriblerius
In the "Art of Sinking" his match could be ;
And our case is growing exceeding serious,
For, all being in the same boat as he,
If down my Lord goes, down go we,
Lord Baron St—nl—y and Company,
As deep in Oblivion's swamp below
As such "Masters Shallow" well could go ;
And where we shall all, both low and high,
Embalm'd in mud, as forgotten lie
As already doth Gr—h—m of Netherby !
But that boy, that boy ! —there's a tale I know,
Which in talking of him comes *à propos.*
Sir Thomas More had an only son,
And a foolish lad was that only one,
And Sir Thomas said, one day to his wife,
"My dear, I can't but wish you joy,
"For you pray'd for a boy, and you now have a boy,
"Who'll continue a boy to the end of his life."

Even such is our own distressing lot,
With the ever-young statesman we have got ; —
Nay even still worse ; for Master More
Wasn't more a youth than he'd been before,
While *ours* such power of boyhood shows,
That, the older he gets, the more juvenile he grows,

[1] "Vain are the spells, the Destroyer
Treads the Domdaniel floor."
Thalaba, a Metrical Romance.

[2] The date of this squib must have been, I think, about 1828-9.

And, at what extreme old age he'll close
His schoolboy course, heaven only knows;—
Some century hence, should he reach so far,
And ourselves to witness it heaven condemn,
We shall find him a sort of *cub* Old Parr,
A whipper-snapper Methusalem;
Nay, ev'n should he make still longer stay of it,
The boy'll want *judgment*, ev'n to the day of it!
Meanwhile, 'tis a serious, sad infliction;
And, day and night, with awe I recall
The late Mr. Mathews' solemn prediction,
"That boy'll be the death, the death of you all."

LETTER

FROM LARRY O'BRANIGAN TO THE REV. MURTAGH O'MULLIGAN.

ARRAH, where were *you*, Murthagh, that beautiful day?—
Or, how came it your riverence was laid on the shelf,
When that poor craythur, Bobby—as *you* were away—
Had to make *twice* as big a Tom-fool of *himself*.

Throth, it wasn't at all civil to lave in the lurch
A boy so desarving your tindh'rest affection;—
Two such iligant Siamase twins of the Church,
As Bob and yourself, ne'er should cut the connection.

If thus in two different directions you pull,
'Faith, they'll swear that yourself and your riverend brother
Are like those quare foxes, in Gregory's Bull,
Whose tails were join'd *one* way, while they look'd *another!* [1]

Och bless'd be he, whosomdever he be,
That help'd soft Magee to that Bull of a Letther!
Not ev'n my own self, though I sometimes make free
At such bull-manufacture, could make him a betther.

To be sure, when a lad takes to *forgin'*, this way,
'Tis a thrick he's much timpted to carry on gaily;
Till, at last, his "injanious devices," [2] some day,
Show him up, not at Exether Hall, but the' Ould Bailey.

That parsons should forge thus appears mighty odd,
And (as if somethin' "odd" in their *names*, too, must be,)
One forger, of ould, was a riverend Dod,
While a riverend Todd's now his match, to a T.[3]

But, no matther *who* did it—all blessins betide him,
For dishin' up Bob, in a manner so nate;
And there wanted but *you*, Murthagh 'vourneen, beside him,
To make the whole grand dish of *bull*-calf complate.

MUSINGS OF AN UNREFORMED PEER.

OF all the odd plans of this monstrously queer age,
The oddest is that of reforming the peerage;—
Just as if we, great dons, with a title and star,
Did not get on exceedingly well, as we are,
And perform all the functions of noodles, by birth,
As completely as any born noodles on earth.

How *acres* descend, is in law-books display'd,
But we as *wise*acres descend, ready made;
And, by right of our rank in Debrett's nomenclature,
Are, all of us, born legislators by nature;—
Like ducklings, to water instinctively taking,
So we, with like quackery, take to law-making;
And God forbid any reform should come o'er us,
To make us more wise than our sires were before us.

The' Egyptians of old the same policy knew—
If your sire was a cook, you must be a cook too:
Thus making, from father to son, a good trade of it,
Poisoners *by right* (so no more could be said of it),
The cooks, like our lordships, a pretty mess made of it;

[1] "You will increase the enmity with which they are regarded by their associates in heresy, thus tying these foxes by the tails, that their faces may tend in opposite directions."—BOB's *Bull*, read at Exeter Hall, July 14.

[2] "An ingenious device of my learned friend."—BOB's *Letter to Standard*.

[3] Had I consulted only my own wishes, I should not have allowed this hasty attack on Dr. Todd to have made its appearance in this Collection; being now fully convinced that the charge brought against that reverend gentleman of intending to pass off as genuine his famous mock Papal Letter was altogether unfounded. Finding it to be the wish, however, of my reverend friend—as I am now glad to be permitted to call him—that both the wrong and the reparation, the Ode and the Palinode, should be thus placed in juxtaposition, I have thought it but due to him to comply with his request.

While, fam'd for *conservative* stomachs, the' Egyptians
Without a wry face bolted all the prescriptions.

It is true, we've among us some peers of the past,
Who keep pace with the present most awfully fast—
Fruits, that ripen beneath the new light now arising
With speed that to *us*, old conserves, is surprising,
Conserves, in whom — potted, for grandmamma uses —
'Twould puzzle a sunbeam to find any juices.
'Tis true, too, I fear, midst the general movement,
Ev'n *our* House, God help it, is doom'd to improvement,
And all its live furniture, nobly descended,
But sadly worn out, must be sent to be mended.
With *moveables* 'mong us, like Br——m and like D—rh—m,
No wonder ev'n *fixtures* should learn to bestir 'em;
And, distant, ye gods, be that terrible day,
When — as playful Old Nick, for his pastime, they say,
Flies off with old houses, sometimes, in a storm —
So *ours* may be whipt off, some night, by Reform;
And, as up, like Loretto's fam'd house [1], through the air,
Not angels, but devils, our lordships shall bear,
Grim, radical phizzes, unus'd to the sky,
Shall flit round, like cherubs, to wish us "good-by,"
While, perch'd up on clouds, little imps of plebeians,
Small Grotes and O'Connells, shall sing Io Pæans.

THE REVEREND PAMPHLETEER.

A ROMANTIC BALLAD.

Oh, have you heard what nap'd of late?
If not, come lend an ear,
While sad I state the piteous fate
Of the Reverend Pamphleteer.

All prais'd his skilful jockeyship,
Loud rung the Tory cheer,
While away, away, with spur and whip,
Went the Reverend Pamphleteer.

The nag he rode — how *could* it err?
'Twas the same that took, last year,
That wonderful jump to Exeter
With the Reverend Pamphleteer.

Set a beggar on horseback, wise men say,
The course he will take is clear;
And in *that* direction lay the way
Of the Reverend Pamphleteer.

"Stop, stop," said Truth, but vain her cry —
Left far away in the rear,
She heard but the usual gay "Good-by"
From her faithless Pamphleteer.

You may talk of the jumps of Homer's gods,
When cantering o'er our sphere —
I'd back for a *bounce*, 'gainst any odds,
This Reverend Pamphleteer.

But ah, what tumbles a jocky hath!
In the midst of his career,
A file of the *Times* lay right in the path
Of the headlong Pamphleteer.

Whether he tripp'd or shy'd thereat,
Doth not so clear appear:
But down he came, as his sermons flat —
This Reverend Pamphleteer!

Lord King himself could scarce desire
To see a spiritual Peer
Fall much more dead, in the dirt and mire,
Than did this Pamphleteer.

Yet pitying parsons, many a day,
Shall visit his silent bier,
And, thinking the while of Stanhope, say
"Poor dear old Pamphleteer!

"He has finish'd, at last, his busy span,
"And now *lies coolly* here —
"As often he did in life, good man,
"Good, Reverend Pamphleteer!"

A RECENT DIALOGUE.

1825.

A Bishop and a bold dragoon,
Both heroes in their way,
Did thus, of late, one afternoon,
Unto each other say: —
"Dear bishop," quoth the brave hussar,
"As nobody denies

[1] The *Casa Santa*, supposed to have been carried by angels through the air from Galilee to Italy.

" That you a wise logician are,
" And I am—otherwise,
" 'Tis fit that in this question, we
" Stick each to his own art—
" That *yours* should be the sophistry,
" And *mine* the *fighting* part.
" My creed, I need not tell you, is
" Like that of W———n,
" To whom no harlot comes amiss,
" Save her of Babylon ; [1]
" And when we're at a loss for words,
" If laughing reasoners flout us,
" For lack of sense we'll draw our swords—
" The sole thing sharp about us."—
" Dear bold dragoon," the bishop said,
" 'Tis true for war thou art meant ;
" And reasoning—bless that dandy head!
" Is not in thy department.
" So leave the argument to me—
" And, when my holy labour
" Hath lit the fires of bigotry,
" Thou'lt poke them with thy sabre.
" From pulpit and from sentry-box,
" We'll make our joint attacks,
" I at the head of my *Cassocks*,
" And you of your *Cossacks*.
" So here's your health, my brave hussar,
" My exquisite old fighter—
" Success to bigotry and war,
" The musket and the mitre!"
Thus pray'd the minister of heaven—
While Y—k, just entering then,
Snor'd out (as if some *Clerk* had given
His nose the cue) " Amen."

T. B.

THE WELLINGTON SPA.

" And drink *oblivion* to our woes." ANNA MATILDA.

1829.

TALK no more of your Cheltenham and Harrowgate springs,
'Tis from *Lethe* we now our potations must draw ;
Your *Lethe*'s a cure for—all possible things,
And the doctors have nam'd it the Wellington Spa.

Other physical waters but cure you in part ;
One cobbles your gout—*t'other* mends your digestion—
Some settle your stomach, but *this*—bless your heart!—
It will settle, for ever, your Catholic Question.

Unlike, too, the potions in fashion at present,
This Wellington nostrum, restoring by stealth,
So purges the mem'ry of all that's unpleasant,
That patients *forget* themselves into rude health.

For instance, the' inventor—his having once said
" He should think himself mad, if, at *any one*'s call,
" He became what he is "—is so purg'd from his head,
That he now doesn't think he's a madman at all.

Of course, for your mem'ries of very long standing—
Old chronic diseases, that date back, undaunted,
To Brian Boroo and Fitz-Stephens' first landing—
A dev'l of a dose of the *Lethe* is wanted.

But ev'n Irish patents can hardly regret
An oblivion, so much in their own native style,
So conveniently plann'd, that, whate'er they forget,
They may go on rememb'ring it still, all the while! [2]

A CHARACTER.

1834.

HALF Whig, half Tory, like those midway things,
'Twixt bird and beast, that by mistake have wings ;
A mongrel Statesman, 'twixt two factions nurst,
Who, of the faults of each, combines the worst—
The Tory's loftiness, the Whigling's sneer,
The leveller's rashness, and the bigot's fear ;
The thirst for meddling, restless still to show
How Freedom's clock, repair'd by Whigs, will go ;
The' alarm when others, more sincere than they,
Advance the hands to the true time of day.

By Mother Church, high-fed and haughty dame,
The boy was dandled, in his dawn of fame ;
List'ning, she smil'd, and bless'd the flippant tongue
On which the fate of unborn tithe-pigs hung.
Ah, who shall paint the grandam's grim dismay,
When loose Reform entic'd her boy away ;
When shock'd she heard him ape the rabble's tone,
And, in Old Sarum's fate, foredoom her own!

[1] Cui nulla meretrix displicuit præter Babylonicam.

[2] The only parallel I know to this sort of oblivion is to be found in a line of the late Mr. R. P. Knight.

" The pleasing memory of things forgot."

Groaning she cried, while tears roll'd down her cheeks,
" Poor, glib-tongued youth, he means not what he speaks.
" Like oil at top, these Whig professions flow,
" But, pure as lymph, runs Toryism below.
" Alas, that tongue should start thus, in the race,
" Ere mind can reach and regulate its pace!—
" For, once outstripp'd by tongue, poor, lagging mind,
" At every step, still further limps behind.
" But, bless the boy!—whate'er his wandering be,
" Still turns his heart to Toryism and me.
" Like those odd shapes, portray'd in Dante's lay,[1]
" With heads fix'd on, the wrong and backward way,
" His feet and eyes pursue a diverse track,
" While *those* march onward, *these* look fondly back."
And well she knew him—well foresaw the day,
Which now hath come, when snatch'd from Whigs away,
The self-same changeling drops the mask he wore,
And rests, restor'd, in granny's arms once more.

But whither now, mixt brood of modern light
And ancient darkness, can'st thou bend thy flight?
Tried by both factions, and to neither true,
Fear'd by the *old* school, laugh'd at by the *new*;
For *this* too feeble, and for *that* too rash,
This wanting more of fire, *that* less of flash;
Lone shalt thou stand, in isolation cold,
Betwixt two worlds, the new one and the old,
A small and "vex'd Bermoothes," which the eye
Of venturous seaman sees—and passes by.

A GHOST STORY.

TO THE AIR OF "UNFORTUNATE MISS BAILEY."

1835.

NOT long in bed had L—ndh—rst lain,
When, as his lamp burn'd dimly,
The ghosts of corporate bodies slain,[2]
Stood by his bed-side grimly.
Dead aldermen, who once could feast,
But now, themselves, are fed on,
And skeletons of mayors deceas'd,
This doleful chorus led on:—

" Oh Lord L—ndh—rst,
" Unmerciful Lord L—ndh—rst,
" Corpses we,
" All burk'd by thee,
" Unmerciful Lord L—ndh—rst!

" Avaunt, ye frights!" his Lordship cried,
Ye look most glum and whitely."
" Ah, L—ndh—rst, dear!" the frights replied,
" You've us'd us unpolitely
" And now, ungrateful man! to drive
" Dead bodies from your door so,
" Who quite corrupt enough, alive,
" You've made, by death, still more so.
" Oh, Ex-Chancellor,
" Destructive Ex-Chancellor,
" See thy work,
" Thou second Burke,
" Destructive Ex-Chancellor!"

Bold L—ndh—rst then, whom nought could keep
Awake, or surely *that* would,
Cried "Curse you all"—fell fast asleep—
And dreamt of "Small *v.* Attwood."
While, shock'd, the bodies flew down stairs,
But, courteous in their panic,
Precedence gave to ghosts of mayors,
And corpses aldermanic,
Crying, "Oh, Lord L—ndh—rst,
" That terrible Lord L—ndh—rst,
" Not Old Scratch
" Himself could match
" That terrible Lord L—ndh—rst."

THOUGHTS

ON THE LATE

DESTRUCTIVE PROPOSITIONS OF THE TORIES.[3]

BY A COMMON-COUNCILMAN.

1835.

I SAT me down in my easy chair,
To read, as usual, the morning papers;
But—who shall describe my look of despair,
When I came to Lefroy's "destructive" capers!
That *he*—that, of all live men, Lefroy
Should join in the cry "Destroy, destroy!"
Who, ev'n when a babe, as I've heard said,
On Orange conserve was chiefly fed,

[1] " Che dalle reni era tornato 'l volto,
E indietro venir li convenia,
Perchè 'l veder dinanzi era lor tolto."

[2] Referring to the line taken by Lord L—ndh—rst, on the question of Municipal Reform.

[3] These verses were written in reference to the Bill brought in at this time, for the reform of Corporations, and the sweeping amendments proposed by Lord Lyndhurst and other Tory Peers, in order to obstruct the measure.

ROYAL ASIATIC BRANCH 565

And never, till now, a movement made
That wasn't most manfully retrograde!
Only think—to sweep from the light of day
Mayors, maces, criers, and wigs away;
To annihilate—never to rise again—
A whole generation of aldermen,
Nor leave them ev'n the' accustom'd tolls,
To keep together their bodies and souls!—
At a time, too, when snug posts and places
Are falling away from us one by one,
Crash—crash—like the mummy-cases
Belzoni, in Egypt, sat upon,
Wherein lay pickled, in state sublime,
Conservatives of the ancient time;—
To choose such a moment to overset
The few snug nuisances left us yet;
To add to the ruin that round us reigns,
By knocking out mayors' and town-clerks' brains;
By dooming all corporate bodies to fall,
Till they leave, at last, no bodies at all—
Nought but the ghosts of by-gone glory,
Wrecks of a world that once was Tory!
Where pensive criers, like owls unblest,
Robb'd of their roosts, shall still hoot o'er them!
Nor *mayors* shall know where to seek a *nest*,
Till Gally Knight shall *find* one for them;—
Till mayors and kings, with none to rue 'em,
Shall perish all in one common plague;
And the *sovereigns* of Belfast and Tuam
Must join their brother, Charles Dix at Prague

Thus mus'd I, in my chair, alone,
(As above describ'd) till dozy grown,
And nodding assent to my own opinions,
I found myself borne to sleep's dominions,
Where, lo, before my dreaming eyes,
A new House of Commons appear'd to rise,
Whose living contents, to fancy's survey,
Seem'd to me all turn'd topsy-turvy—
A jumble of polypi—nobody knew
Which was the head or which the queue.
Here, Inglis, turn'd to a sans-culotte,
Was dancing the hays with Hume and Grote;
There, ripe for riot, Recorder Shaw
Was learning from Roebuck "Ça-ira;"
While Stanley and Graham, as *poissarde* wenches,
Scream'd "*à bas!*" from the Tory benches;
And Peel and O'Connell, cheek by jowl,
Were dancing an Irish carmagnole.

The Lord preserve us!—if dreams come true,
What *is* this hapless realm to do?

---

[1] A term formed on the model of the Mastoden, &c.

ANTICIPATED MEETING

OF THE

BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN THE YEAR 2836.

1836.

After some observations from Dr. M'Grig
On that fossile reliquium call'd Petrified Wig,
Or *Perruquolithus*—a specimen rare
Of those wigs, made for antediluvian wear,
Which, it seems, stood the Flood without turning a hair—
Mr. Tomkins rose up, and requested attention
To facts no less wondrous which *he* had to mention.

Some large fossil creatures had lately been found
Of a species no longer now seen above ground,
But the same (as to Tomkins most clearly appears)
With those animals, lost now for hundreds of years,
Which our ancestors us'd to call "Bishops" and "Peers,".
But which Tomkins more erudite names has bestow'd on,
Having call'd the Peer fossil the' *Aristocratodon*,[1]
And, finding much food under t'other one's thorax,
Has christen'd that creature the' Episcopus Vorax.

Lest the *savantes* and dandies should think this all fable,
Mr. Tomkins most kindly produced on the table,
A sample of each of these species of creatures,
Both tol'rably human, in structure and features,
Except that the' Episcopus seems, Lord deliver us!
To've been carnivorous as well as granivorous;
And Tomkins, on searching its stomach, found there
Large lumps, such as no modern stomach could bear,
Of a substance call'd Tithe, upon which, as 'tis said,
The whole Genus Clericum formerly fed;
And which having lately himself decompounded,
Just to see what 'twas made of, he actually found it
Compos'd of all possible cookable things
That e'er tripp'd upon trotters or soar'd upon wings—
All products of earth, both gramineous, herbaceous,
Hordeaceous, fabaceous, and eke farinaceous,
All clubbing their quotas to glut the œsophagus
Of this ever greedy and grasping Tithophagus.[2]
"Admire," exclaim'd Tomkins, "the kind dispensation
"By Providence shed on this much-favour'd nation,
"In sweeping so ravenous a race from the earth,
"That might else have occasion'd a general dearth—
"And thus burying 'em, deep as even Joe Hume would sink 'em,
"With the Ichthyosaurus and Palæorynchum,

[2] The zoological term for a tithe-eater.

" And other queer *ci-devant* things, under ground—
" Not forgetting that fossilised youth[1], so renown'd,
" Who liv'd just to witness the Deluge—was gratified
" Much by the sight, and has since been found *stratified!*"

This picturesque touch—quite in Tomkins's way—
Call'd forth from the *savantes* a general hurrah;
While inquiries among them went rapidly round,
As to where this young stratified man could be found.
The "learn'd Theban's" discourse next as livelily flow'd on,
To sketch t'other wonder, the' *Aristocratodon*—
An animal, differing from most human creatures
Not *so* much in speech, inward structure, or features,
As in having a certain excrescence, T. said,
Which in form of a coronet grew from its head,
And devolv'd to its heirs, when the creature was dead;
Nor matter'd it, while this heir-loom was transmitted,
How unfit were the *heads*, so the *coronet* fitted.

He then mention'd a strange zoological fact,
Whose announcement appear'd much applause to attract.
In France, said the learned professor, this race
Had so noxious become, in some centuries' space,
From their numbers and strength, that the land was o'errun with 'em,
Every one's question being, "What's to be done with 'em?"
When, lo! certain knowing ones—*savans*, mayhap,
Who, like Buckland's deep followers, understood *trap*,[2]
Slily hinted that nought upon earth was so good
For *Aristocratodons*, when rampant and rude,
As to stop, or curtail, their allowance of food.
This expedient was tried, and a proof it affords
Of the' effect that short commons will have upon lords;
For this whole race of bipeds, one fine summer's morn,
Shed their coronets, just as a deer sheds his horn,
And the moment these gewgaws fell off, they became
Quite a new sort of creature—so harmless and tame,
That zoologists might, for the first time, maintain 'em
To be near akin to the *genus humanum*,
And the' experiment, tried so successfully then,
Should be kept in remembrance, when wanted again.

* * * * *

[1] The man found by Scheuchzer, and supposed by him to have witnessed the Deluge (" homo diluvii testis "), but who turned out, I am sorry to say, to be merely a great lizard.

SONGS OF THE CHURCH.

No. 1.

LEAVE ME ALONE.

A PASTORAL BALLAD.

" We are ever standing on the defensive. All that we say to them is, '*leave us alone.*' The Established Church is part and parcel of the constitution of this country. You are bound to conform to this constitution. We ask of you nothing more;—*let us alone.*"—Letter in *The Times*, Nov. 1838.

1838.

Come, list to my pastoral tones,
In clover my shepherds I keep;
My stalls are well furnish'd with drones,
Whose preaching invites one to sleep.
At my *spirit* let infidels scoff,
So they leave but the *substance* my own;
For, in sooth, I'm extremely well off,
If the world will but let me alone.

Dissenters are grumblers, we know;—
Though excellent men, in their way,
They never like things to be *so*,
Let things be however they may.
But dissenting's a trick I detest;
And, besides, 'tis an axiom well known,
The creed that's best paid is the best,
If the *un*paid would let it alone.

To me, I own, very surprising
Your Newmans and Puseys all seem,
Who start first with rationalizing,
Then jump to the other extreme.
Far better, 'twixt nonsense and sense,
A nice *half*-way concern, like our own,
Where piety's mix'd up with pence,
And the latter are *ne'er* left alone.

Of all our tormentors, the Press is
The one that most tears us to bits;
And, now, Mrs. Woolfrey's "excesses"
Have thrown all its imps into fits.
The dev'ls have been at us, for weeks,
And there's no saying when they'll have done;—
Oh dear, how I wish Mr. Breeks
Had left Mrs. Woolfrey alone!

If any need pray for the dead,
'Tis those to whom post-obits fall;
Since wisely hath Solomon said,
'Tis "money that answereth all."

[2] Particularly the formation called *Transition* Trap.

But ours be the patrons who *live*;—
For, once in their glebe they are thrown,
The dead have no living to give,
And therefore we leave them alone.

Though in morals we may not excel,
Such perfection is rare to be had;
A good life is, of course, very well,
But good living is also—not bad.
And when, to feed earth-worms, I go,
Let this epitaph stare from my stone,
"Here lies the Right Rev. so and so;
"Pass, stranger, and—leave him alone."

EPISTLE FROM HENRY OF EX—T—R TO JOHN OF TUAM.

Dear John, as I know, like our brother of London,
You've sipp'd of all knowledge, both sacred and mundane,
No doubt, in some ancient Joe Miller, you've read
What Cato, that cunning old Roman, once said—
That he ne'er saw two rev'rend soothsayers meet,
Let it be where it might, in the shrine or the street,
Without wondering the rogues, 'mid their solemn grimaces,
Didn't burst out a laughing in each other's faces.[1]
What Cato then meant, though 'tis so long ago,
Even we in the present times pretty well know;
Having soothsayers also, who—sooth to say, John—
Are no better in some points than those of days gone,
And a pair of whom, meeting (between you and me),
Might laugh in their sleeves, too—all lawn though they be.
But this, by the way—my intention being chiefly
In this, my first letter, to hint to you briefly,
That, seeing how fond you of *Tuum*[2] must be,
While *Meum*'s at all times the main point with me,
We scarce could do better than form an alliance,
To set these sad Anti-Church times at defiance:
You, John, recollect, being still to embark,
With no share in the firm but your title[3] and *mark*;
Or ev'n should you feel in your grandeur inclin'd
To call yourself Pope, why, I shouldn't much mind;
While *my* church as usual holds fast by your Tuum,
And every one else's, to make it all Suum.

Thus allied, I've no doubt we shall nicely agree,
As no twins can be liker, in most points than we;
Both, specimens choice of that mix'd sort of beast,
(See Rev. xiii. 1.) a political priest;
Both mettlesome *chargers*, both brisk pamphleteers,
Ripe and ready for all that sets men by the ears;
And I, at least one, who would scorn to stick longer
By any giv'n cause than I found it the stronger,
And who, smooth in my turnings as if on a swivel,
When the tone ecclesiastic wo'n't do, try the *civil*.

In short (not to bore you, ev'n *jure divino*)
We've the same cause in common, John—all but the rhino;
And that vulgar surplus, whate'er it may be,
As you're not us'd to cash, John, you'd best leave to me.
And so, without form—as the postman wo'n't tarry—
I'm, dear Jack of Tuam,
Yours,
Exeter Harry.

[1] Mirari se, si augur augurem aspiciens sibi temperaret a risu.

[2] So spelled in those ancient versicles which John, we understand, frequently chants:—

"Had every one Suum,
You would'nt have Tuum,
But I should have Meum,
And sing Te Deum.

[3] For his keeping the title he may quote classical authority, as Horace expressly says, "Poteris servare Tuam."—*De Art. Poet.* v. 329.—*Chronicle.*

SONG OF OLD PUCK.

"And those things do best please me,
That befall preposterously."
Puck Junior, *Midsummer Night's Dream.*

Who wants old Puck? for here am I,
A mongrel imp, 'twixt earth and sky,
Ready alike to crawl or fly;
Now in the mud, now in the air,
And, so 'tis for mischief, reckless where.

As to my knowledge, there's no end to't,
For where I haven't it, I pretend to't;
And, 'stead of taking a learn'd degree
At some dull university,
Puck found it handier to commence
With a certain share of impudence,
Which passes one off as learn'd and clever,
Beyond all other degrees whatever;
And enables a man of lively sconce
To be Master of *all* the Arts at once.
No matter what the science may be—
Ethics, Physics, Theology,
Mathematics, Hydrostatics,
Aerostatics or Pneumatics—
Whatever it be, I take my luck,
'Tis all the same to ancient Puck;

Whose head's so full of all sorts of wares,
That a brother imp, old Smugden, swears
If I had but of *law* a little smatt'ring,
I'd then be *perfect*[1]—which is flatt'ring.

My skill as a linguist all must know
Who met me abroad some months ago;
(And heard me *abroad* exceedingly, too,
In the moods and tenses of *parlez-vous*)
When, as old Chambaud's shade stood mute,
I spoke such French to the Institute
As puzzled those learned Thebans much,
To know if 'twas Sanscrit or High Dutch,
And *might* have pass'd with the' unobserving
As one of the unknown tongues of Irving.
As to my talent for ubiquity,
There's nothing like it in all antiquity.
Like Mungo (my peculiar care),
"I'm here, I'm dere, I'm ebery where."[2]
If any one's wanted to take the chair,
Upon any subject, any where,
Just look around, and—Puck is there!
When slaughter's at hand, your bird of prey
Is never known to be out of the way;
And wherever mischief's to be got,
There's Puck *instanter*, on the spot.

Only find me in negus and applause,
And I'm your man for *any* cause.
If *wrong* the cause, the more my delight;
But I don't object to it, ev'n when *right*,
If I only can vex some old friend by't;
There's D—rh—m, for instance;—to worry *him*
Fills up my cup of bliss to the brim!

(NOTE BY THE EDITOR.)

Those who are anxious to run a muck
Can't do better than join with Puck,
They'll find him *bon diable*—spite of his phiz—
And, in fact, his great ambition is,
While playing old Puck in first-rate style,
To be *thought* Robin Goodfellow all the while.

POLICE REPORTS.

CASE OF IMPOSTURE.

Among other stray flashmen, dispos'd of, this week,
Was a youngster, nam'd St—nl—y, genteelly connected,
Who has lately been passing off coins, as antique,
Which have prov'd to be *sham* ones, though long unsuspected.

The ancients, our readers need hardly be told,
Had a coin they call'd "Talents," for wholesale demands;[3]
And 'twas some of said coinage this youth was so bold
As to fancy he'd got, God knows how, in his hands.

People took him, however, like fools, at his word;
And these talents (all priz'd at his own valuation)
Were bid for, with eagerness ev'n more absurd
Than has often distinguish'd this great thinking nation.

Talk of wonders one now and then sees advertiz'd,
"Black swans"—"Queen Anne farthings"—or ev'n "a child's caul"—
Much and justly as all these rare objects are priz'd,
"St—nl—y's talents" outdid them—swans, farthings, and all!

At length, some mistrust of this coin got abroad;
Even quondam believers began much to doubt of it;
Some rung it, some rubb'd it, suspecting a fraud—
And the hard rubs it got rather took the shine out of it.

Others, wishing to break the poor prodigy's fall,
Said 'twas known well to all who had studied the matter,
That the Greeks had not only *great* talents but *small*,[4]
And those found on the youngster were clearly *the latter*.

While others, who view'd the grave farce with a grin—
Seeing counterfeits pass thus for coinage so massy,
By way of a hint to the dolts taken in,
Appropriately quoted Budæus de *Asse*.

In short, the whole sham by degrees was found out,
And this coin, which they chose by such fine names to call,
Prov'd a mere lacker'd article—showy, no doubt,
But, ye gods, not the true Attic Talent at all.

[1] Verbatim, as said. This tribute is only equalled by that of Talleyrand to his medical friend, Dr. ——: "Il se connoit en tout; et même un peu en médecine."

[2] Song in "The Padlock."

[3] For an account of the coin called Talents by the ancients, see Budæus de Asse, and the other writers de Re Nummariâ.

[4] The Talentum Magnum and the Talentum Atticum appear to have been the same coin.

As the' impostor was still young enough to repent,
And, besides, had some claims to a grandee connexion,
Their Worships — considerate for once — only sent
The young Thimblerig off to the House of Correction.

REFLECTIONS.

ADDRESSED TO THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE OF THE CHURCH, IN THE LAST NUMBER OF THE QUARTERLY REVIEW.

I'M quite of your mind;—though these Pats cry aloud
That they've got "too much Church," 'tis all nonsense and stuff;
For Church is like Love, of which Figaro vow'd
That even *too much* of it's not quite enough.[1]

Ay, dose them with parsons, 'twill cure all their ills;—
Copy Morison's mode when from pill-box undaunted he
Pours through the patient his black-coated pills,
Nor cares what their quality, so there's but quantity.

I verily think, 'twould be worth England's while
To consider, for Paddy's own benefit, whether
'Twould not be as well to give up the green isle
To the care, wear and tear of the Church altogether.

The Irish are well us'd to treatment so pleasant;
The harlot Church gave them to Henry Plantagenet,[2]
And now, if King William would make them a present
To 'tother chaste lady — ye Saints, just imagine it!

Chief Secs., Lord-Lieutenants, Commanders-in-chief,
Might then all be cull'd from the' episcopal benches;
While colonels in black would afford some relief
From the hue that reminds one of the' old scarlet wench's.

Think how fierce at a *charge* (being practis'd therein)
The Right Reverend Brigadier Ph—ll—tts would slash on!
How General Bl—mf—d, through thick and through thin,
To the end of the chapter (or chapters) would dash on!

For, in one point alone do the amply fed race
Of bishops to beggars similitude bear —
That, set them on horseback, in full steeple chase,
And they'll ride, if not pull'd up in time — you know where.

But, bless you, in Ireland, that matters not much,
Where affairs have for centuries gone the same way;
And a good staunch Conservative's system is such
That he'd back even Beelzebub's long-founded sway.

I am therefore, dear Quarterly, quite of your mind;—
Church, Church, in all shapes, into Erin let's pour;
And the more she rejecteth our med'cine so kind,
The more let's repeat it — "Black dose, as before."

Let Coercion, that peace-maker, go hand in hand
With demure-ey'd Conversion, fit sister and brother;
And, covering with prisons and churches the land,
All that wo'n't *go* to *one*, we'll put *into* the other.

For the sole, leading maxim of us who're inclin'd
To rule over Ireland, not well, but religiously,
Is to treat her like ladies, who've just been confin'd,
(Or who *ought* to be so) and to *church* her prodigiously.

NEW GRAND EXHIBITION OF MODELS

OF THE

TWO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

COME, step in, gentlefolks, here ye may view
An exact and nat'ral representation

[1] En fait d'amour, trop même n'est pas assez. — *Barbier de Seville.*

[2] Grant of Ireland to Henry II. by Pope Adrian.

(Like Siburn's Model of Waterloo [1])
Of the Lords and Commons of this here nation.

There they are — all cut out in cork —
The "Collective Wisdom" wondrous to see;
My eyes! when all them heads are at work,
What a vastly weighty consarn it must be.

As for the "wisdom," — *that* may come anon;
Though, to say truth, we sometimes see
(And I find the phenomenon no uncommon 'un)
A man who's M. P. with a head that's M. T.

Our Lords are *rather* too small, 'tis true;
But they do well enough for Cabinet shelves;
And, besides, — *what's* a man with creeturs to do
That make such *werry* small figures themselves?

There — don't touch those lords, my pretty dears —
(*Aside.*)
Curse the children! — this comes of reforming a nation:
Those meddling young brats have so damag'd my peers,
I must lay in more cork for a new creation.

Them yonder's our bishops — "to whom much is given,"
And who're ready to take as much more as you please:
The seers of old times saw visions of heaven,
But these holy seers see nothing but Sees.

Like old Atlas [2] (the chap, in Cheapside, there below,)
'Tis for so much *per cent.* they take heaven on their shoulders;
And joy 'tis to know that old High Church and Co.,
Though not capital priests, are such capital-holders.

There's one on 'em, Ph—llp—ts, who now is away,
As we're having him fill'd with bumbustible stuff,
Small crackers and squibs, for a great gala-day,
When we annually fire his Right Reverence off.

'Twould do your heart good, ma'am, then to be by,
When, bursting with gunpowder, 'stead of with bile,
Crack, crack, goes the bishop, while dowagers cry,
"How like the dear man, both in matter and style!"

Should you want a few Peers and M.P.s, to bestow,
As presents to friends, we can recommend these: — [3]
Our nobles are come down to nine-pence, you know,
And we charge but a penny a piece for M.P.s.

Those of *bottle*-corks made take most with the trade,
(At least, 'mong such as my *Irish* writ summons,)
Of old *whiskey* corks our O'Connells are made,
But those we make Shaws and Lefroys of, are *rum* 'uns.
So, step in, gentlefolks, &c. &c.
Da Capo.

ANNOUNCEMENT

OF

A NEW GRAND ACCELERATION COMPANY

FOR THE PROMOTION OF

THE SPEED OF LITERATURE.

Loud complaints being made, in these quick-reading times,
Of too slack a supply, both of prose works and rhymes,
A new Company, form'd on the keep-moving plan,
First propos'd by the great firm of Catch-'em-who-can,
Beg to say they've now ready, in full wind and speed,
Some fast-going authors, of quite a new breed —
Such as not he who *runs* but who *gallops* may read —
And who, if well curried and fed, they've no doubt,
Will beat ev'n Bentley's swift stud out and out.
It is true, in these days, such a drug is renown,
We've "Immortals" as rife as M.P.s about town;
And not a Blue's rout but can off-hand supply
Some invalid bard who's insur'd "not to die."
Still, let England but once try *our* authors, she'll find
How fast they'll leave ev'n these Immortals behind;
And how truly the toils of Alcides were light,
Compar'd with *his* toil who can read all they write.

In fact, there's no saying, so gainful the trade,
How fast immortalities now may be made;
Since Helicon never will want an "Undying One,"
As long as the public continues a Buying One;

[1] One of the most interesting and curious of all the exhibitions of the day.

[2] The sign of the Insurance Office in Cheapside.

[3] Producing a bag full of lords and gentlemen.

And the Company hope yet to witness the hour,
When, by strongly applying the mare-motive[1] power,
A three-decker novel, 'midst oceans of praise,
May be written, launch'd, read, and—forgot, in three days!

In addition to all this stupendous celerity,
Which—to the no small relief of posterity—
Pays off at sight the whole debit of fame,
Nor troubles futurity ev'n with a name
(A project that wo'n't as much tickle Tom Tegg as *us*,
Since 'twill rob *him* of his second-priced Pegasus);
We, the Company—still more to show how immense
Is the power o'er the mind of pounds, shillings, and pence;
And that not even Phœbus himself, in our day,
Could get up a *lay* without first an *outlay*—
Beg to add, as our literature soon may compare,
In its quick make and vent, with our Birmingham ware,
And it doesn't at all matter in either of these lines,
How *sham* is the article, so it but *shines*,—
We keep authors ready, all perch'd, pen in hand,
To write off, in any given style, at command.
No matter what bard, be he living or dead,[2]
Ask a work from his pen, and 'tis done soon as said:
There being, on the' establishment, six Walter Scotts,
One capital Wordsworth, and Southeys in lots;—
Three choice Mrs. Nortons, all singing like syrens,
While most of our pallid young clerks are Lord Byrons.
Then we've ***s and ***s (for whom there's small call),
And ***s and ***s (for whom no call at all).

In short, whosoe'er the last "Lion" may be,
We've a Bottom who'll copy his roar[3] to a T,
And so well, that not one of the buyers who've got 'em
Can tell which is *lion*, and which only Bottom.

N.B.—The company, since they set up in this line,
Have mov'd their concern, and are now at the sign
Of the Muse's Velocipede, *Fleet* Street, where all
Who wish well to the scheme are invited to call.

---

[1] "'Tis money makes the mare to go."

[2] We have lodgings apart, for our posthumous people,
As we find that, if left with the live ones, they *keep* ill.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LATE DINNER TO DAN.

From tongue to tongue the rumour flew;
All ask'd, aghast, "Is't true? is't true?"
But none knew whether 'twas fact or fable:
And still the unholy rumour ran,
From Tory woman to Tory man,
Though none to come at the truth was able—
Till, lo, at last, the fact came out,
The horrible fact, beyond all doubt,
That Dan had din'd at the Viceroy's table;
Had flesh'd his Popish knife and fork
In the heart of the' Establish'd mutton and pork!

Who can forget the deep sensation
That news produc'd in this orthodox nation?
Deans, rectors, curates, all agreed,
If Dan was allow'd at the Castle to feed,
'Twas clearly *all up* with the Protestant creed!
There had'nt, indeed, such an apparition
Been heard of, in Dublin, since that day
When, during the first grand exhibition
Of Don Giovanni, that naughty play,
There appear'd, as if rais'd by necromancers,
An *extra* devil among the dancers!
Yes—ev'ry one saw, with fearful thrill,
That a devil too much had join'd the quadrille;[4]
And sulphur was smelt, and the lamps let fall
A grim, green light o'er the ghastly ball,
And the poor *sham* devils didn't like it at all;
For, they knew from whence the' intruder had come,
Though he left, *that* night, his tail at home.

This fact, we see, is a parallel case
To the dinner that, some weeks since, took place.
With the difference slight of fiend and man,
It shows what a nest of Popish sinners
That city must be, where the devil and Dan
May thus drop in, at quadrilles and dinners!

But, mark the end of these foul proceedings,
These demon hops and Popish feedings.
Some comfort 'twill be—to those, at least,
Who've studied this awful dinner question—
To know that Dan, on the night of that feast,
Was seiz'd with a dreadful indigestion;
That envoys were sent, post-haste, to his priest,
To come and absolve the suffering sinner,
For eating so much at a heretic dinner;
And some good people were even afraid
That Peel's old confectioner still at the trade—
Had poison'd the Papist with *orangeade*.

[3] "Bottom: Let me play the lion; I will roar you as 'twere any nightingale."

[4] History of the Irish stage.

NEW HOSPITAL FOR SICK LITERATI.

With all humility we beg
To inform the public, that Tom Tegg—
Known for his spunky speculations,
In buying up dead reputations,
And, by a mode of galvanizing
Which, all must own, is quite surprising,
Making dead authors move again,
As though they still were living men;—
All this, too, manag'd, in a trice,
By those two magic words, "Half Price,"
Which brings the charm so quick about,
That worn-out poets, left without
A second *foot* whereon to stand,
Are made to go at second *hand*;—
'Twill please the public, we repeat,
To learn that Tegg, who works this feat,
And, therefore, knows what care it needs
To keep alive Fame's invalids,
Has oped an Hospital, in town,
For cases of knock'd-up renown—
Falls, fractures, dangerous Epic *fits*
(By some call'd *Cantos*), stabs from wits;
And, of all wounds for which they're nurst,
Dead cuts from publishers, the worst;—
All these, and other such fatalities,
That happen to frail immortalities,
By Tegg are so expertly treated,
That oft-times, when the cure's completed,
The patient's made robust enough
To stand a few more rounds of *puff*,
Till, like the ghosts of Dante's lay,
He's puff'd into thin air away!

As titled poets (being phenomenons)
Don't like to mix with low and common 'uns,
Tegg's Hospital has separate wards,
Express for literary lords,
Where *prose*-peers, of immoderate length,
Are nurs'd, when they've outgrown their strength,
And poets, whom their friends despair of,
Are—put to bed and taken care of.

Tegg begs to contradict a story,
Now current both with Whig and Tory,
That Doctor W—rb—t—n, M.P.,
Well known for his antipathy,
His deadly hate, good man, to all
The race of poets, great and small—
So much, that he's been heard to own,
He would most willingly cut down
The holiest groves on Pindus' mount,
To turn the timber to account!—
The story actually goes, that he
Prescribes at Tegg's Infirmary;
And oft, not only stints, for spite,
The patients in their copy-right,
But that, on being call'd in lately
To two sick poets, suffering greatly,
This vaticidal Doctor sent them
So strong a dose of Jeremy Bentham,
That one of the poor bards but cried,
"Oh, Jerry, Jerry!" and then died;
While t'other, though less stuff was given,
Is on his road, 'tis fear'd, to heaven!

Of this event, howe'er unpleasant,
Tegg means to say no more at present,—
Intending shortly to prepare
A statement of the whole affair,
With full accounts, at the same time,
Of some late cases (prose and rhyme),
Subscrib'd with every author's name,
That's now on the Sick List of Fame.

RELIGION AND TRADE.

"Sir Robert Peel believed it was necessary to originate all respecting religion and trade in a Committee of the House."—*Church Extension*, May 22. 1830.

Say, who was the wag, indecorously witty,
Who, first in a statute, this libel convey'd;
And thus slily referr'd to the self-same committee,
As matters congenial, Religion and Trade?

Oh surely, my Ph—llp—ts, 'twas thou didst the deed;
For none but thyself, or some pluralist brother,
Accustom'd to mix up the craft with the creed,
Could bring such a pair thus to twin with each other.

And yet, when one thinks of times present and gone,
One is forc'd to confess, on maturer reflection,
That 'tisn't in the eyes of committees alone
That the shrine and the shop seem to have some connection.

Not to mention those monarchs of Asia's fair land,
Whose civil list all is in "god-money" paid;
And where the whole people, by royal command,
Buy their gods at the government mart, ready made;—[1]

[1] The Birmans may not buy the sacred marble in mass, but must purchase figures of the deity already made.—Symes.

There was also (as mention'd, in rhyme and in prose, is)
Gold heap'd, throughout Egypt, on every shrine,
To make rings for right reverend crocodiles' noses—
Just such as, my Ph—llp—ts, would look well in thine.

But one needn't fly off, in this erudite mood;
And 'tis clear, without going to regions so sunny,
That priests love to do the *least* possible good,
For the largest *most* possible quantum of money.

"Of him," saith the text, "unto whom much is given,
"Of him much, in turn, will be also requir'd:"—
"By *me*," quoth the sleek and obese man of heaven—
"Give as much as you will—more will still be desir'd."

More money! more churches!—oh Nimrod, hadst thou
'Stead of *Tower*-extension, some shorter way gone—
Hadst thou known by what methods we mount to heaven *now*,
And tried *Church*-extension, the feat had been done!

MUSINGS,

SUGGESTED BY THE LATE PROMOTION OF MRS. NETHERCOAT.

"The widow Nethercoat is appointed gaoler of Loughrea, in the room of her deceased husband."—*Limerick Chronicle.*

WHETHER as queens or subjects, in these days,
Women seem form'd to grace alike each station;—
As Captain Flaherty gallantly says,
"You, ladies, are the lords of the creation!"

Thus o'er my mind did prescient visions float
Of all that matchless woman yet may be;
When, hark, in rumours less and less remote,
Came the glad news o'er Erin's ambient sea,
The important news—that Mrs. Nethercoat
Had been appointed gaoler of Loughrea;
Yes, mark it, History—Nethercoat is dead,
And Mrs. N. now rules his realm instead;
Hers the high task to wield the' uplocking keys,
To rivet rogues and reign o'er Rapparees!

Thus, while your blust'rers of the Tory school
Find Ireland's sanest sons so hard to rule,
One meek-ey'd matron, in Whig doctrines nurst,
Is all that's ask'd to curb the maddest, worst!

Show me the man that dares, with blushless brow,
Prate about Erin's rage and riot now;—
Now, when her temperance forms her sole excess;
When long-lov'd whiskey, fading from her sight,
"Small by degrees, and beautifully less,"
Will soon, like other *spirits*, vanish quite;
When of red coats the number's grown so small,
That soon, to cheer the warlike parson's eyes,
No glimpse of scarlet will be seen at all,
Save that which she of Babylon supplies;—
Or, at the most, a corporal's guard will be,
Of Ireland's *red* defence the sole remains;
While of its gaols bright woman keeps the key,
And captive Paddies languish in her chains!

Long may such lot be Erin's, long be mine!
Oh yes—if ev'n this world, though bright it shine,
In Wisdom's eyes a prison-house must be,
At least let woman's hand our fetters twine,
And blithe I'll sing, more joyous than if free,
The Nethercoats, the Nethercoats for me!

INTENDED TRIBUTE

TO THE

AUTHOR OF AN ARTICLE IN THE LAST NUMBER OF THE QUARTERLY REVIEW,

ENTITLED

"ROMANISM IN IRELAND."

IT glads us much to be able to say,
That a meeting is fix'd, for some early day,
Of all such dowagers—*he* or *she*—
(No matter the sex, so they dowagers be,)
Whose opinions, concerning Church and State,
From about the time of the Curfew date—
Staunch sticklers still for days by-gone,
And admiring *them* for their rust alone—
To whom if we would a leader give,
Worthy their tastes conservative,
We need but some mummy-statesman raise,
Who was pickled and potted in Ptolemy's days;
For *that*'s the man, if waked from his shelf,
To conserve and swaddle this world, like himself.

Such, we're happy to state, are the old *he*-dames
Who've met in committee, and given their names

(In good hieroglyphics), with kind intent
To pay some handsome compliment
To their sister-author, the nameless he,
Who wrote, in the last new *Quarterly*,
That charming assault upon Popery;
An article justly prized by them,
As a perfect antediluvian gem—
The work, as Sir Sampson Legend would say,
Of some "fellow the Flood couldn't wash away."[1]

The fund being rais'd, there remain'd but to see
What the dowager-author's gift was to be.
And here, I must day, the Sisters Blue
Show'd delicate taste and judgment too.
For, finding the poor man suffering greatly
From the awful stuff he has thrown up lately—
So much so, indeed, to the alarm of all,
As to bring on a fit of what doctors call
The Antipapistico-monomania
(I'm sorry with such a long word to detain ye),
They've acted the part of a kind physician,
By suiting their gift to the patient's condition;
And, as soon as 'tis ready for presentation,
We shall publish the facts, for the gratification
Of this highly-favour'd and Protestant nation.

Meanwhile, to the great alarm of his neighbours,
He still continues his *Quarterly* labours;
And often has strong No-Popery fits,
Which frighten his old nurse out of her wits.
Sometimes he screams, like Scrub in the play,[2]
"Thieves! Jesuits! Popery!" night and day;
Takes the Printer's Devil for Doctor Dens,[3]
And shies at him heaps of High-church pens;[4]
Which the Devil (himself a touchy Dissenter)
Feels all in his hide, like arrows, enter.
'Stead of swallowing wholesome stuff from the druggist's,
He *will* keep raving of "Irish Thuggists;"[5]
Tells us they all go murd'ring, for fun,
From rise of morn till set of sun,
Pop, pop, as fast as a minute-gun![6]
If ask'd, how comes it the gown and cassock are
Safe and fat, 'mid this general massacre—
How haps it that Pat's own population
But swarms the more for this trucidation—
He refers you, for all such memoranda,
To the "*archives of the Propaganda!*"[7]

This is all we've got, for the present, to say—
But shall take up the subject some future day.

GRAND DINNER OF TYPE AND CO.

A POOR POET'S DREAM.[8]

As I sate in my study, lone and still,
Thinking of Sergeant Talfourd's Bill,
And the speech by Lawyer Sugden made,
In spirit congenial, for "the Trade,"
Sudden I sunk to sleep, and, lo,
Upon Fancy's reinless night-mare flitting,
I found myself, in a second or so,
At the table of Messrs. Type and Co.
With a goodly group of diners sitting;—
All in the printing and publishing line,
Drest, I thought, extremely fine,
And sipping, like lords, their rosy wine;
While I, in a state near inanition,
With coat that hadn't much nap to spare
(Having just gone into its second edition),
Was the only wretch of an author there.
But think, how great was my surprise,
When I saw, in casting round my eyes,
That the dishes, sent up by Type's she-cooks,
Bore all, in appearance, the shape of books;
Large folios—God knows where they got 'em,
In these *small* times—at top and bottom;
And quartos (such as the Press provides
For no one to read them) down the sides.
Then flash'd a horrible thought on my brain,
And I said to myself, "'Tis all too plain;
"Like those, well known in school quotations,
"Who ate up for dinner their own relations,
"I see now, before me, smoking here,
"The bodies and bones of my brethren dear;—
"Bright sons of the lyric and epic Muse,
"All cut up in cutlets, or hash'd in stews;

[1] See Congreve's Love for Love.
[2] Beaux Stratagem.
[3] The writer of the article has groped about, with much success, in what he calls "the dark recesses of Dr. Dens's disquisitions."—*Quarterly Review.*
[4] "Pray, may we ask, has there been any rebellious movement of Popery in Ireland, since the planting of the Ulster colonies, in which something of the kind was not visible among the Presbyterians of the North?"—*Ibid.*
[5] "Lord Lorton, for instance, who, for clearing his estate of a village of Irish Thuggists," &c. &c.—*Quarterly Review.*
[6] "Observe how murder after murder is committed like minute-guns."—*Ibid.*
[7] "Might not the archives of the Propaganda possibly supply the key?"
[8] Written during the late agitation of the question of Copyright.

"Their *works*, a light through ages to go,
Themselves, eaten up by Type and Co.!"

While thus I moraliz'd, on they went,
Finding the fare most excellent;
And all so kindly, brother to brother,
Helping the tidbits to each other;
"A slice of Southey let me send you"—
"This cut of Campbell I recommend you"—
"And here, my friends, is a treat indeed,
"The immortal Wordsworth fricassee'd!"

Thus having, the cormorants, fed some time,
Upon joints of poetry — all of the prime —
With also (as Type in a whisper averr'd it)
"Cold prose on the sideboard, for such as prefer'd it"—
They rested awhile, to recruit their force,
Then pounc'd, like kites, on the second course,
Which was singing-birds merely — Moore and others —
Who all went the way of their larger brothers;
And, num'rous now though such songsters be,
'Twas really quite distressing to see
A whole dishful of Toms—Moore, Dibdin, Bayly,—
Bolted by Type and Co. so gaily!

Nor was this the worst — I shudder to think
What a scene was disclos'd when they came to drink.
The warriors of Odin, as every one knows,
Used to drink out of skulls of slaughter'd foes:
And Type's old port, to my horror I found,
Was in skulls of bards sent merrily round.
And still as each well-fill'd cranium came,
A health was pledg'd to its owner's name;
While Type said slily, 'midst general laughter,
"We eat them up first, then drink to them after."

There was *no* standing this — incens'd I broke
From my bonds of sleep, and indignant woke,
Exclaiming, "Oh shades of other times,
"Whose voices still sound, like deathless chimes,
"Could you e'er have foretold a day would be,
"When a dreamer of dreams should live to see
"A party of sleek and honest John Bulls
"Hobnobbing each other in poets' skulls!"

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[1] "For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth."—*Acts*, xix.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

Sir,—A well-known classical traveller, while employed in exploring, some time since, the supposed site of the Temple of Diana of Ephesus, was so fortunate, in the course of his researches, as to light upon a very ancient bark manuscript, which has turned out, on examination, to be part of an old Ephesian newspaper:—a newspaper published, as you will see, so far back as the time when Demetrius, the great Shrine-Extender[1], flourished. I am, Sir, yours, &c.

EPHESIAN GAZETTE.

Second edition.

IMPORTANT event for the rich and religious!
Great Meeting of Silversmiths held in Queen Square;—
Church Extension, their object, — the' excitement prodigious; —
Demetrius, head man of the craft, takes the chair!

Third edition.

The Chairman still up, when our dev'l came away;
Having prefac'd his speech with the usual state prayer,
That the Three-headed Dian[2] would kindly, this day,
Take the Silversmiths' Company under her care.

Being ask'd by some low, unestablish'd divines,
"When your churches are up, where are flocks to be got?"
He manfully answer'd, "Let *us* build the shrines,[3]
"And we care not if flocks are found for them or not."

He then added — to show that the Silversmiths' Guild
Were above all confin'd and intolerant views —
"Only *pay* through the nose to the altars we build,
"You may *pray* through the nose to what altars you choose."

This tolerance, rare from a shrine-dealer's lip,
(Though a tolerance mix'd with due taste for the till) —
So much charm'd all the holders of scriptural scrip,
That their shouts of "Hear!" "Hear!" are re-echoing still.

Fourth edition.

Great stir in the Shrine Market! altars to Phœbus
Are going dog-cheap — may be had for a rebus.
Old Dian's, as usual, outsell all the rest; —
But Venus's also are much in request.

[2] Tria Virginis ora Dianæ.

[3] The "shrines" are supposed to have been small churches, or chapels, adjoining to the great temples; — "ædiculæ, in quibus statuæ reponebantur."—ERASM.

LATEST ACCOUNTS FROM OLYMPUS.

As news from Olympus has grown rather rare,
Since bards, in their cruises, have ceased to *touch* there,
We extract for our readers the' intelligence given,
In our latest accounts from that *ci-devant* heaven—
That realm of the By-gones, where still sit, in state,
Old god-heads and nod-heads, now long out of date.

Jove himself, it appears, since his love-days are o'er,
Seems to find immortality rather a bore;
Though he still asks for news of earth's capers and crimes,
And reads daily his old fellow-Thund'rer, the Times.
He and Vulcan, it seems, by their wives still hen-[*peck'd* are,
And kept on a stinted allowance of nectar.

Old Phœbus, poor lad, has given up inspiration,
And pack'd off to earth on a *puff*-speculation.
The fact is, he found his old shrines had grown dim,
Since bards look'd to Bentley and Colburn, not him.
So, he sold off his stud of ambrosia-fed nags,
Came incog. down to earth, and now writes for the *Mags*;
Taking care that his work not a gleam hath to linger in't,
From which men could guess that the god had a [finger in't.

There are other small facts, well deserving attention,
Of which our Olympic despatches make mention.
Poor Bacchus is still very ill, they allege,
Having never recover'd the Temperance Pledge.
"What, the Irish!" he cried—"those I look'd to the most!
"If they give up the *spirit*, I give up the ghost:"
While Momus, who us'd of the gods to make fun,
Is turn'd Socialist now, and declares there are none!

But these changes, though curious, are all a mere farce,
Compar'd to the new "casus belli" of Mars,
Who, for years, has been suffering the horrors of quiet,
Uncheer'd by one glimmer of bloodshed or riot!
In vain from the clouds his belligerent brow
Did he pop forth, in hopes that somewhere or somehow,
Like Pat at a fair, he might "coax up a row:"
But the joke wouldn't take—the whole world had got wiser;
Men lik'd not to take a Great Gun for adviser;
And, still less, to march in fine clothes to be shot,
Without very well knowing for whom or for what.

The French, who of slaughter had had their full swing,
Were content with a shot, now and then, at their King;
While, in England, good fighting's a pastime so hard to gain,
Nobody's left to fight *with*, but Lord C—rd—g—n.

'Tis needless to say, then, how monstrously happy
Old Mars has been made by what's now on the *tapis*;
How much it delights him to see the French rally,
In Liberty's name, around Mehemet Ali;
Well knowing that Satan himself could not find
A confection of mischief much more to his mind
Than the old Bonnet Rouge and the Bashaw combin'd.
Right well, too, he knows, that there ne'er were attackers,
Whatever their cause, that they didn't find backers;
While any slight care for Humanity's woes
May be sooth'd by that "Art Diplomatique," which shows
How to come, in the most approv'd method, to blows.

This is all, for to-day—whether Mars is much vext
At his friend Thiers's exit, we'll know by our next.

THE TRIUMPHS OF FARCE.

Our earth, as it rolls through the regions of space,
Wears always two faces, the dark and the sunny;
And poor human life runs the same sort of race,
Being sad, on one side—on the other side, funny.

Thus oft we, at eve, to the Haymarket hie,
To weep o'er the woes of Macready;—but scarce
Hath the tear-drop of Tragedy pass'd from the eye,
When, lo, we're all laughing in fits at the Farce.

And still let us laugh—preach the world as it may—
Where the cream of the joke is, the swarm will soon follow;
Heroics are very grand things, in their way,
But the laugh at the long run will carry it hollow.

For instance, what sermon on human affairs
Could equal the scene that took place t'other day
'Twixt Romeo and Louis Philippe, on the stairs—
The Sublime and Ridiculous meeting half-way!

Yes, Jocus! gay god, whom the Gentiles supplied,
And whose worship not ev'n among Christians declines,

In our senate thou'st languish'd since Sheridan died,
But Sydney still keeps thee alive in our shrines.

Rare Sydney! thrice honour'd the stall where he sits,
And be his every honour he deigneth to climb at!
Had England a hierarchy form'd all of wits,
Who but Sydney would England proclaim as its primate?

And long may he flourish, frank, merry, and brave—
A Horace to hear, and a Paschal to read;[1]
While he *laughs*, all is safe, but, when Sydney grows grave,
We shall then think the Church is in danger *indeed*.

Meanwhile, it much glads us to find he's preparing
To teach *other* bishops to "seek the right way;"[2]
And means shortly to treat the whole bench to an airing,
Just such as he gave to Charles James t'other day.

For our parts, though gravity's good for the soul,
Such a fancy have we for the side that there's fun on,
We'd rather with Sydney south-west take a "stroll,"
Than *coach* it north-east with his Lordship of Lunnun.

THOUGHTS ON PATRONS, PUFFS, AND OTHER MATTERS.

IN AN EPISTLE FROM T. M. TO S. R.

WHAT, *thou*, my friend! a man of rhymes,
And, better still, a man of guineas,
To talk of "patrons," in these times,
When authors thrive, like spinning jennies,
And Arkwright's twist and Bulwer's page
Alike may laugh at patronage!

No, no—those times are pass'd away,
When, doom'd in upper floors to star it,
The bard inscrib'd to lords his lay,—
Himself, the while, my Lord Mountgarret.
No more he begs, with air dependent,
His "little bark may sail attendant"
Under some lordly skipper's steerage;
But launch'd triumphant in the Row,
Or ta'en by Murray's self in tow,
Cuts both *Star Chamber* and the peerage.

Patrons, indeed! when scarce a sail
Is whisk'd from England by the gale,
But bears on board some authors, shipp'd
For foreign shores, all well-equipp'd
With proper book-making machinery,
To sketch the morals, manners, scenery,
Of all such lands as they shall see,
Or *not* see, as the case may be:—
It being enjoin'd on all who go
To study first Miss M********,
And learn from her the method true,
To *do* one's books—and readers, too.
For so this nymph of *nous* and nerve
Teaches mankind "How to Observe;"
And, lest mankind at all should swerve,
Teaches them also "*What* to Observe."

No, no, my friend—it can't be blink'd—
The Patron is a race extinct;
As dead as any Megatherion
That ever Buckland built a theory on.
Instead of bartering, in this age,
Our praise for pence and patronage,
We authors, now, more prosperous elves,
Have learn'd to patronise ourselves;
And since all-potent Puffing's made
The life of song, the soul of trade,
More frugal of our praises grown,
We puff no merits but our own.

Unlike those feeble gales of praise
Which critics blew in former days,
Our modern puffs are of a kind
That truly, really *raise the wind*;
And since they've fairly set in blowing,
We find them the best *trade*-winds going.
'Stead of frequenting paths so slippy
As her old haunts near Aganippe,
The Muse, now, taking to the till,
Has open'd shop on Ludgate Hill
(Far handier than the Hill of Pindus,
As seen from bard's back attic windows);
And swallowing there without cessation
Large draughts (*at sight*) of inspiration,
Touches the *notes* for each new theme,
While still fresh "*change* comes o'er her dream."

What Steam is on the deep—and more—
Is the vast power of Puff on shore;
Which jumps to glory's future tenses
Before the present even commences;
And makes "immortal" and "divine" of us
Before the world has read one line of us.

In old times, when the God of Song
Drove his own two-horse team along,

[1] Some parts of the *Provinciales* may be said to be of the highest order of *jeux d'esprit* or, squibs.

[2] "This stroll in the metropolis is extremely well contrived for your Lordship's speech; but suppose, my dear Lord, that instead of going E. and N. E. you had turned about," &c. &c.—SYDNEY SMITH's *Last Letter to the Bishop of London*.

Carrying inside a bard or two,
Book'd for posterity "all through;"—
Their luggage, a few close-pack'd rhymes,
(Like yours, my friend,) for after-times—
So slow the pull to Fame's abode,
That folks oft slept upon the road;—
And Homer's self, sometimes, they say,
Took to his nightcap on the way.[1]

Ye Gods! how different is the story
With our new galloping sons of glory,
Who, scorning all such slack and slow time,
Dash to posterity in *no* time!
Raise but one general blast of Puff
To start your author—that's enough.
In vain the critics, set to watch him,
Try at the starting post to catch him:
He's off—the puffers carry it hollow—
The critics, if they please, may follow.
Ere *they've* laid down their first positions,
He's fairly blown through six editions!
In vain doth Edinburgh dispense
Her blue and yellow pestilence
(That plague so awful in my time
To young and touchy sons of rhyme)—
The Quarterly, at three months' date,
To catch the' Unread One, comes too late;
And nonsense, litter'd in a hurry,
Becomes "immortal," spite of Murray.

But, bless me!—while I thus keep fooling,
I hear a voice cry, "Dinner's cooling."
That postman, too, (who, truth to tell,
'Mong men of letters bears the bell,)
Keeps ringing, ringing, so infernally
That I *must* stop—
Yours sempiternally.

THOUGHTS ON MISCHIEF.

BY LORD ST—NL—Y.

(HIS FIRST ATTEMPT IN VERSE.)

"Evil, be thou my good." MILTON.

How various are the inspirations
Of different men, in different nations!
As genius prompts to good or evil,
Some call the Muse, some raise the devil.

Old Socrates, that pink of sages,
Kept a pet demon, on board wages
To go about with him incog.,
And sometimes give his wits a jog.
So L—nd—st, in *our* day, we know,
Keeps fresh relays of imps below,
To forward, from that nameless spot,
His inspirations, hot and hot.

But, neat as are old L—nd—st's doings—
Beyond even Hecate's "hell-broth" brewings—
Had I, Lord Stanley, but my will,
I'd show you mischief prettier still;
Mischief, combining boyhood's tricks
With age's sourest politics;
The urchin's freaks, the veteran's gall,
Both duly mix'd, and matchless all;
A compound nought in history reaches
But Machiavel, when first in breeches!

Yes, Mischief, Goddess multiform,
Whene'er thou, witch-like, rid'st the storm,
Let Stanley ride cockhorse behind thee—
No livelier lackey could they find thee.
And, Goddess, as I'm well aware,
So mischief's *done*, you care not *where*,
I own, 'twill most *my* fancy tickle
In Paddyland to play the Pickle;
Having got credit for inventing
A new, brisk method of tormenting—
A way, they call the Stanley fashion,
Which puts all Ireland in a passion;
So neat it hits the mixture due
Of injury and insult too;
So legibly it bears upon't
The stamp of Stanley's brazen front.

Ireland, we're told, means land of *Ire;*
And *why* she's so, none need inquire,
Who sees her millions, martial, manly,
Spat upon thus by me, Lord St—nl—y.
Already in the breeze I scent
The whiff of coming devilment;
Of strife, to me more stirring far
Than the' Opium or the Sulphur war,
Or any such drug ferments are.
Yes—sweeter to this Tory soul
Than all such pests, from pole to pole,
Is the rich, "swelter'd venom" got
By stirring Ireland's "charmed pot;"[2]
And, thanks to practice on that land,
I stir it with a master-hand.

[1] Quandoque bonus dormitat Homerus.—HORAT.

[2] "Swelter'd venom, sleeping got,
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot."

Again thou'lt see, when forth hath gone
The War-Church-cry, "On, Stanley, on!"
How Caravats and Shanavests
Shall swarm from out their mountain nests,
With all their merry moonlight brothers,
To whom the Church (*step*-dame to others)
Hath been the best of nursing mothers.
Again o'er Erin's rich domain
Shall Rockites and right reverends reign;
And both, exempt from vulgar toil,
Between them share that titheful soil;
Puzzling ambition *which* to climb at,
The post of Captain, or of Primate.

And so, long life to Church and Co.—
Hurrah for mischief!—here we go.

EPISTLE FROM CAPTAIN ROCK TO LORD L—NDH—T.

DEAR L—ndh—t,—you'll pardon my making thus free,—
But form is all fudge 'twixt such "comrogues" as we,
Who, whate'er the smooth views we, in public, may drive at,
Have both the same praiseworthy object, in private—
Namely, never to let the old regions of riot,
Where Rock hath long reign'd, have one instant of quiet,
But keep Ireland still in that liquid we've taught her
To love more than meat, drink, or clothing—*hot water*.

All the difference betwixt you and me, as I take it,
Is simply, that *you* make the law and *I* break it;
And never, of big-wigs and small, were there two
Play'd so well into each other's hands as we do;
Insomuch, that the laws you and yours manufacture,
Seem all made express for the Rock-boys to fracture.
Not Birmingham's self—to her shame be it spoken—
E'er made things more neatly contriv'd to be broken;
And hence, I confess, in this island religious,
The breakage of laws—and of heads *is* prodigious.

And long may it thrive, my Ex-Bigwig, say I,—
Though, of late, much I fear'd all our fun was gone by;
As, except when some tithe-hunting parson show'd sport,
Some rector—a cool hand at pistols and port,
Who "keeps dry" his *powder*, but never *himself*—
One who, leaving his Bible to rust on the shelf,
Sends his pious texts home, in the shape of ball-cartridges,
Shooting his "dearly beloved," like partridges;—
Except when some hero of this sort turn'd out,
Or, the' Exchequer sent, flaming, its tithe-writs[1] about—
A contrivance more neat, I may say, without flattery,
Than e'er yet was thought of for bloodshed and battery;
So neat, that even *I* might be proud, I allow,
To have hit off so rich a receipt for a *row*;—
Except for such rigs turning up, now and then,
I was actually growing the dullest of men;
And, had this blank fit been allow'd to increase,
Might have snor'd myself down to a Justice of Peace.
Like you, Reformation in Church and in State
Is the thing of all things I most cordially hate;
If once these curst Ministers do as they like,
All's o'er, my good Lord, with your wig and my pike,
And one may be hung up on t'other, henceforth,
Just to show what *such* Captains and Chancellors were worth.

But we must not despair—even already Hope sees
You're about, my bold Baron, to kick up a breeze
Of the true baffling sort, such as suits me and you,
Who have box'd the whole compass of party right through,
And care not one farthing, as all the world knows,
So we *but* raise the wind, from what quarter it blows,
Forgive me, dear Lord, that thus rudely I dare
My own small resources with thine to compare:
Not even Jerry Diddler, in "raising the wind," durst
Compete, for one instant, with thee, my dear L—ndh—t.

But, hark, there's a shot!—some parsonic practitioner?
No—merely a bran-new Rebellion Commissioner;
The Courts having now, with true law erudition,
Put even Rebellion itself "in commission."
As seldom, in *this* way, I'm any man's debtor,
I'll just *pay my shot*, and then fold up this letter.

[1] Exchequer tithe processes, served under a commission of rebellion.—*Chronicle*.

In the mean time, hurrah for the Tories and Rocks!
Hurrah for the parsons who fleece well their flocks!
Hurrah for all mischief in all ranks and spheres,
And, above all, hurrah for that dear House of Peers!

CAPTAIN ROCK IN LONDON.

LETTER FROM THE CAPTAIN TO TERRY ALT, ESQ.[1]

HERE I am, at head-quarters, dear Terry, once more,
Deep in Tory designs, as I've oft been before: —
For, bless them! if 'twasn't for this wrong-headed crew,
You and I, Terry Alt, would scarce know what to do;
So ready they're always, when dull we are growing,
To set our old concert of discord a-going,
While L—ndh—t's the lad, with his Tory-Whig face,
To play, in such concert, the true *double-base.*
I had fear'd this old prop of my realm was beginning
To tire of his course of political sinning,
And, like Mother Cole, when her heyday was past,
Meant, by way of a change, to try virtue at last.
But I wrong'd the old boy, who as staunchly derides
All reform in himself as in most things besides;
And, by using *two* faces through life, all allow,
Has acquir'd face sufficient for *any* thing now.

In short, he's all right; and, if mankind's old foe,
My "Lord Harry" himself — who's the leader, we know,
Of another red-hot Opposition, below —
If that "Lord," in his well-known discernment, but spares
Me and L—ndh—t, to look after Ireland's affairs,
We shall soon such a region of devilment make it,
That Old Nick himself for his own may mistake it.

Even already — long life to such Big-wigs, say I,
For, as long as they flourish, we Rocks cannot die —
He has serv'd our right riotous cause by a speech
Whose perfection of mischief he only could reach;
As it shows off both *his* and *my* merits alike,
Both the swell of the wig, and the point of the pike;
Mixes up, with a skill which one can't but admire,
The lawyer's cool craft with the' incendiary's fire,
And enlists, in the gravest, most plausible manner,
Seven millions of souls under Rockery's banner!
Oh Terry, my man, let this speech *never* die;
Through the regions of Rockland, like flame, let it fly;
Let each syllable dark the Law-Oracle utter'd
By all Tipperary's wild echoes be mutter'd,
Till nought shall be heard, over hill, dale, or flood,
But "*You're aliens in language, in creed, and in blood;*"
While voices, from sweet Connemara afar,
Shall answer, like true *Irish* echoes, "We are!"
And, though false be the cry, and though sense must abhor it,
Still the' echoes may quote *Law* authority for it,
And nought L—ndh—t cares for my spread of dominion;
So he, in the end, touches cash "for the' *opinion.*"

But I've no time for more, my dear Terry, just now,
Being busy in helping these Lords through their *row:*
They're bad hands at mob-work, but, once they begin,
They'll have plenty of practice to break them well in.

[1] The subordinate officer or lieutenant of Captain Rock.

THE FUDGES IN ENGLAND;

BEING A SEQUEL TO

"THE FUDGE FAMILY IN PARIS."

PREFACE.

The name of the country town, in England — a well-known fashionable watering-place — in which the events that gave rise to the following correspondence occurred, is, for obvious reasons, suppressed. The interest attached, however, to the facts and personages of the story, render it independent of all time and place; and when it is recollected that the whole train of romantic circumstances so fully unfolded in these Letters has passed during the short period which has now elapsed since the great Meetings in Exeter Hall, due credit will, it is hoped, be allowed to the Editor for the rapidity with which he has brought the details before the Public; while, at the same time, any errors that may have been the result of such haste will, he trusts, with equal consideration, be pardoned.

THE FUDGES IN ENGLAND.

LETTER I.

FROM PATRICK MAGAN, ESQ., TO THE REV. RICHARD ———, CURATE OF ———, IN IRELAND.

Who d'ye think we've got here?—quite reform'd from the giddy,
Fantastic young thing, that once made such a noise—
Why, the famous Miss Fudge—that delectable Biddy,
Whom you and I saw once at Paris, when boys,
In the full blaze of bonnets, and ribands, and airs—
Such a thing as no rainbow hath colours to paint;
Ere time had reduced her to wrinkles and prayers,
And the Flirt found a decent retreat in the Saint.

Poor "Pa" hath popp'd off—gone, as charity judges,
To some choice Elysium reserv'd for the Fudges;
And Miss, with a fortune, besides expectations
From some much rever'd and much-palsied relations,
Now wants but a husband, with requisites meet,—
Age thirty, or thereabouts—stature six feet,
And warranted godly—to make all complete.
Nota Bene—a Churchman would suit, if he's *high*,
But Socinians or Catholics need not apply.

What say you, Dick? doesn't this tempt your ambition?
The whole wealth of Fudge, that renown'd man of pith,
All brought to the hammer, for Church competition,— [with.
Sole encumbrance, Miss Fudge to be taken there-
Think, my boy, for a Curate how glorious a catch!
While, instead of the thousands of souls you *now* watch,
To save Biddy Fudge's is all you need do;
And her purse will, meanwhile, be the saving of *you*.

You may ask, Dick, how comes it that I, a poor elf,
Wanting substance even more than your spiritual self, [shelf,
Should thus generously lay my own claims on the
When, God knows! there ne'er was young gentleman yet
So much lack'd an old spinster to rid him from debt,
Or had cogenter reasons than mine to assail her
With tender love-suit—at the suit of his tailor.

But thereby there hangs a soft secret, my friend,
Which thus to your reverend breast I commend:
Miss Fudge hath a niece—such a creature!—with eyes
Like those sparklers that peep out from summer-night skies
At astronomers-royal, and laugh with delight
To see elderly gentlemen spying all night.

While her figure — oh, bring all the gracefullest things
That are borne through the light air by feet or by wings,
Not a single new grace to that form could they teach,
Which combines in itself the perfection of each;
While, rapid or slow, as her fairy feet fall,
The mute music of symmetry modulates all.

Ne'er, in short, was there creature more form'd to bewilder
A gay youth like me, who of castles aërial
(And *only* of such) am, God help me! a builder;
Still peopling each mansion with lodgers ethereal,
And now, to this nymph of the seraph-like eye,
Letting out, as you see, my first floor next the sky.[1]

But, alas! nothing's perfect on earth — even she,
This divine little gipsy, does odd things sometimes;
Talks learning — looks wise (rather painful to see),
Prints already in two County papers her rhymes;
And raves—the sweet, charming, absurd little dear!
About Amulets, Bijous, and Keepsakes, next year,
In a manner which plainly bad symptoms portends
Of that Annual *blue* fit, so distressing to friends;
A fit which, though lasting but one short edition,
Leaves the patient long after in sad inanition.

However, let's hope for the best — and, meanwhile,
Be it mine still to bask in the niece's warm smile;
While you, if you're wise, Dick, will play the gallant
(Uphill work, I confess,) to her Saint of an Aunt.
Think, my boy, for a youngster like you, who've a lack,
Not indeed of rupees, but of all other specie,
What luck thus to find a kind witch at your back,
An old goose with gold eggs, from all debts to release ye;
Never mind, tho' the spinster be reverend and thin,
What are all the Three Graces to her Three per Cents.?
While her acres! — oh Dick, it don't matter one pin
How she touches the' affections, so *you* touch the rents;
And Love never looks half so pleas'd as when, bless him! he
Sings to an old lady's purse "Open, Sesamé."

[1] That floor which a facetious garreteer called "le premier en descendant du ciel."

By the way, I've just heard, in my walks, a report,
Which, if true, will insure for your visit some sport.
'Tis rumour'd our Manager means to bespeak
The Church tumblers from Exeter Hall for next week;
And certainly ne'er did a queerer or rummer set
Throw, for the' amusement of Christians, a summerset.
'Tis fear'd their chief "Merriman," C—ke, cannot come,
Being called off, at present, to play Punch at home;[2]
And the loss of so practis'd a wag in divinity
Will grieve much all lovers of jokes on the Trinity;—
His pun on the name Unigenitus, lately
Having pleas'd Robert Taylor, the *Reverend*, greatly.[3]

'Twill prove a sad drawback, if absent he be,
As a wag Presbyterian's a thing quite to see;
And, 'mong the Five Points of the Calvinists, none of 'em
Ever yet reckon'd a point of wit one of 'em.
But even though depriv'd of this comical elf,
We've a host of *buffoni* in Murtagh himself,
Who of all the whole troop is chief mummer and mime,
As C—ke takes the *Ground* Tumbling, *he* the *Sublime*;[4]
And of him we're quite certain, so, pray, come in time.

[2] See the Dublin Evening Post, of the 9th of this month (July), for an account of a scene which lately took place at a meeting of the Synod of Ulster, in which the performance of the above-mentioned part by the personage in question appears to have been worthy of all its former reputation in that line.

[3] "All are punsters if they have wit to be so; and therefore when an Irishman has to commence with a Bull, you will naturally pronounce it a *bull*. (A laugh.) Allow me to bring before you the famous Bull that is called Unigenitus, referring to the only-begotten Son of God." — *Report of the Rev. Doctor's speech, June 20. in the Record Newspaper.*

[4] In the language of the play-bills, "Ground and *Lofty* Tumbling."

LETTER II.

FROM MISS BIDDY FUDGE TO MRS. ELIZABETH ———.

Just in time for the post, dear, and monstrously busy,
With godly concernments — and worldly ones, too;
Things carnal and spiritual mix'd, my dear Lizzy,
In this little brain till, bewilder'd and dizzy,
'Twixt heaven and earth, I scarce know what I do.

First, I've been to see all the gay fashions from Town,
Which our favourite Miss Gimp for the spring has had down.
Sleeves *still* worn (which *I* think is wise), *à la folle*,
Charming hats, *pou de soie*—though the shape rather droll.
But you can't think how nicely the caps of *tulle* lace,
With the *mentonnières*, look on this poor sinful face;
And I mean, if the Lord in his mercy thinks right,
To wear one at Mrs. Fitz-wigram's to-night.
The silks are quite heavenly;—I'm glad, too, to say,
Gimp herself grows more godly and good every day;
Hath had sweet experience—yea, even doth begin
To turn from the Gentiles, and put away sin—
And all since her last stock of goods was laid in.
What a blessing one's milliner, careless of pelf,
Should thus "walk in newness" as well as one's self!

So much for the blessings, the comforts of Spirit
I've had since we met, and they're more than I merit!—
Poor, sinful, weak creature in every respect;
Though ordain'd (God knows why) to be one of the' Elect.
But now for the picture's reverse.—You remember
That footman and cook-maid I hir'd last December;
He, a Baptist Particular—*she*, of some sect
Not particular, I fancy, in any respect;
But desirous, poor thing, to be fed with the Word,
And "to wait," as she said, "on Miss Fudge and the Lord."

Well, my dear, of all men, that Particular Baptist
At preaching a sermon, off hand, was the aptest;
And, long as he staid, do him justice, more rich in
Sweet savours of doctrine, there never was kitchen.
He preach'd in the parlour, he preach'd in the hall,
He preach'd to the chambermaids, scullions, and all.
All heard with delight his reprovings of sin,
But above all, the cook-maid;—oh, ne'er would she tire—
Though, in learning to save sinful souls from the fire,
She would oft let the soles she was frying fall in.
(God forgive me for punning on points thus of piety!—
A sad trick I've learn'd in Bob's heathen society.)
But ah! there remains still the worst of my tale;
Come, Asterisks, and help me the sad truth to veil—
Conscious stars, that at even your own secret turn pale!

* * * * *
* * * * *

In short, dear, this preaching and psalm-singing pair,
Chosen "vessels of mercy," as *I* thought they were,
Have together this last week elop'd; making bold
To whip off as much goods as both vessels could hold—
Not forgetting some scores of sweet tracts from my shelves,
Two Family Bibles as large as themselves,
And besides, from the drawer—I neglecting to lock it—
My neat "Morning Manna, done up for the pocket."[1]
Was there e'er known a case so distressing, dear Liz?
It has made me quite ill:—and the worst of is,
When rogues are *all* pious, 'tis hard to detect
Which rogues are the reprobate, *which* the elect.
This man "had a *call*," he said—impudent mockery!
What call had he to *my* linen and crockery?

I'm now, and have been for this week past, in chase
Of some godly young couple this pair to replace.
The inclos'd two announcements have just met my eyes,
In that venerable Monthly where Saints advertise
For such temporal comforts as this world supplies;[2]
And the fruits of the Spirit are properly made
An essential in every craft, calling, and trade.
Where the' attorney requires for his 'prentice some youth [truth;"
Who has "learn'd to fear God, and to walk in the
Where the sempstress, in search of employment, declares,
That pay is no object, so she can have prayers;
And the' Establish'd Wine Company proudly gives out,
That the whole of the firm, Co. and all, are devout.

[1] "Morning Manna, or British Verse-book, neatly done up for the pocket," and chiefly intended to assist the members of the British Verse Association, whose design is, we are told, "to induce the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland to commit one and the same verse of Scripture to memory every morning. Already, it is known, several thousand persons in Scotland, besides tens of thousands in America and Africa, are *every morning learning the same verse.*

[2] The Evangelical Magazine.—A few specimens taken at random from the wrapper of this highly esteemed periodical will fully justify the character which Miss Fudge has here given of it. "Wanted, in a pious pawnbroker's family, an active lad as an apprentice." "Wanted, as housemaid, a young female who has been brought to a saving knowledge of the truth." "Wanted immediately, a man of decided piety, to assist in the baking business." "A gentleman who understands the Wine Trade is desirous of entering into partnership, &c. &c. He is not desirous of being connected with any one whose system of business is not of the strictest integrity as in the sight of God, and seeks connection only with a truly pious man, either Churchman or Dissenter."

Happy London, one feels, as one reads o'er the pages,
Where Saints are so much more abundant than sages;
Where Parsons may soon be all laid on the shelf,
As each Cit can cite chapter, and verse for himself,
And the *serious* frequenters of market and dock
All lay in religion as part of their stock. [1]
Who can tell to what lengths we may go on improving,
When thus through all London the Spirit keeps moving,
And heaven's so in vogue, that each shop adver*tise*ment
Is now not so much for the earth as the skies meant?

P. S.

Have mislaid the two paragraphs—can't stop to look,
But both describe charming—both Footman and Cook,
She, "decidedly pious"—with pathos deplores
The' increase of French cookery and sin on our shores;
And adds—(while for further accounts she refers
To a great Gospel preacher, a cousin of hers,)
That "though *some* make their Sabbaths mere matter-of-fun days,
She asks but for tea and the Gospel, on Sundays."
The footman, too, full of the true saving knowledge;—
Has late been to Cambridge—to Trinity College;
Serv'd last a young gentleman, studying divinity,
But left—not approving the morals of Trinity.

P. S.

I inclose, too, according to promise, some scraps
Of my Journal—that Day-book I keep of my heart;
Where, at some little items, (partaking, perhaps,
More of earth than of heaven,) thy prudery may start,
And suspect something tender, sly girl as thou art.
For the present, I'm mute—but, whate'er may befall,
Recollect, dear, (in Hebrews, xiii. 4.) St. Paul
Hath himself declar'd, "Marriage is honourable in all."

EXTRACTS FROM MY DIARY.

Monday.

TRIED a new châlé gown on—pretty.
No one to see me in it—pity!
Flew in a passion with Friz, my maid;—
The Lord forgive me!—she look'd dismay'd;
But got her to sing the 100th Psalm,
While she curl'd my hair, which made me calm.
Nothing so soothes a Christian heart
As sacred music—heavenly art!

Tuesday.

At two, a visit from Mr. Magan—
A remarkably handsome, nice young man;
And, all Hibernian though he be,
As civilis'd, strange to say, as we!

I own this young man's spiritual state
Hath much engross'd my thoughts of late;
And I mean, as soon as my niece is gone,
To have some talk with him thereupon.
At present, I nought can do or say,
But that troublesome child is in the way:
Nor is there, I think, a doubt that he
Would also her absence much prefer,
As oft, while list'ning intent to me,
He's forc'd, from politeness, to look at her.

Heigho!—what a blessing should Mr. Magan
Turn out, after all, a "renewed" young man;
And to me should fall the task, on earth,
To assist at the dear youth's second birth.
Blest thought! and, ah, more blest the tie,
Were it heaven's high will, that he and I—
But I blush to write the nuptial word—
Should wed, as St. Paul says, "in the Lord;"
Not *this* world's wedlock—gross, gallant,
But pure—as when Amram married his aunt.

Our ages differ—but who would count
One's natural sinful life's amount,
Or look in the Register's vulgar page
For a regular twice-born Christian's age,
Who, blessed privilege! only then
Begins to live when he's born again.

[1] According to the late Mr. Irving, there is even a peculiar form of theology got up expressly for the money-market. "I know how far wide," he says, "of the mark my views of Christ's work in the flesh will be viewed by those who are working with the stock-jobbing theology of the religious world." "Let these preachers," he adds, "(for I will not call them theologians), cry up, broker-like, their article."

Morning Watch.—No. iii. 442, 443.

From the statement of another writer, in the same publication, it would appear that the stock-brokers have even set up a new Divinity of their own. "This shows," says the writer in question, "that the doctrine of the union between Christ and his members is quite as essential as that of substitution, by taking which latter alone the *Stock-Exchange Divinity* has been produced."—No. x. p. 375.

Among the ancients, we know the money-market was provided with more than one presiding Deity—"Deæ Pecuniæ (says an ancient author) commendabantur ut pecuniosi essent."

And, counting in *this* way—let me see—
I myself but five years old shall be,
And dear Magan, when the' event takes place,
An actual new-born child of grace—
Should Heaven in mercy so dispose—
A six-foot baby, in *swaddling* clothes.

Wednesday.

Finding myself, by some good fate,
With Mr. Magan left *tête-à-tête*,
Had just begun—having stirr'd the fire,
And drawn my chair near his—to inquire
What his notions were of Original Sin,
When that naughty Fanny again bounc'd in;
And all the sweet things I had got to say
Of the Flesh and the Devil were whisk'd away!

Much griev'd to observe that Mr. Magan
Is actually pleas'd and amus'd with Fan!
What charms any sensible man can see
In a child so foolishly young as she—
But just eighteen, come next May-day,
With eyes, like herself, full of nought but play—
Is, I own, an exceeding puzzle to me.

LETTER III.

FROM MISS FANNY FUDGE, TO HER COUSIN, MISS KITTY ———.

STANZAS (INCLOSED)

TO MY SHADOW; OR, WHY?—WHAT?—HOW?

DARK comrade of my path! while earth and sky
Thus wed their charms, in bridal light array'd,
Why in this bright hour, walk'st thou ever nigh,
Black'ning my footsteps with thy length of shade—
Dark comrade, WHY?

Thou mimic Shape that, 'mid these flowery scenes,
Glidest beside me o'er each sunny spot,
Sadd'ning them as thou goest—say, what means
So dark an adjunct to so bright a lot—
Grim goblin, WHAT?

Still, as to pluck sweet flowers I bend my brow,
Thou bendest, too—then risest when I rise;—
Say, mute mysterious Thing! how is't that thou
Thus comest between me and those blessed skies—
Dim shadow, How?

(ADDITIONAL STANZA, BY ANOTHER HAND.)

Thus said I to that Shape, far less in grudge
Than gloom of soul; while, as I eager cried,
Oh, Why? What? How?—a Voice, that one might judge
To be some Irish echo's, faint replied,
Oh fudge, fudge, fudge!

You have here, dearest Coz, my last lyric effusion;
And, with it, that odious "additional stanza,"
Which Aunt *will* insist I must keep, as conclusion,
And which, you'll *at once* see, is Mr. Magan's;—a
Most cruel and dark-design'd extravaganza,
And part of that plot in which he and my Aunt are
To stifle the flights of my genius by banter.

Just so 'twas with Byron's young eagle-eyed strain,
Just so did they taunt him;—but vain, critics, vain,
All your efforts to saddle Wit's fire with a chain!
To blot out the splendour of Fancy's young stream,
Or crop, in its cradle, her newly-fledg'd beam!!!
Thou perceiv'st, dear, that, even while these lines I indite,
Thoughts burn, brilliant fancies break out, wrong or right,
And I'm all over poet, in Criticism's spite!

That my Aunt, who deals only in Psalms, and regards
Messrs. Sternhold and Co. as the first of all bards—
That *she* should make light of my works I can't blame;
But that nice, handsome, odious Magan—what a shame!
Do you know, dear, that, high as on most points I rate him,
I'm really afraid—after all, I—*must* hate him.
He is *so* provoking—nought's safe from his tongue;
He spares no one authoress, ancient or young.
Were you Sappho herself, and in Keepsake or Bijou
Once shone as contributor, Lord how he'd quiz you!
He laughs at *all* Monthlies—I've actually seen
A sneer on his brow at the Court Magazine!—
While of Weeklies, poor things, there's but one he peruses,
And buys every book which that Weekly abuses.
But I care not how others such sarcasm may fear,
One spirit, at least, will not bend to his sneer;
And though tried by the fire, my young genius shall burn as
Uninjur'd as crucified gold in the furnace!
(I suspect the word "crucified" must be made "crucible,"
Before this fine image of mine is producible.)

And now, dear — to tell you a secret which, pray
Only trust to such friends as with safety you may —
You know, and indeed the whole county suspects
(Though the Editor often my best things rejects),
That the verses signed *so*, ☞, which you now and then see
In our County Gazette (vide *last*) are by me.
But 'tis dreadful to think what provoking mistakes
The vile country Press in one's prosody makes.
For you know, dear—I may, without vanity, hint—
Though an angel should write, still 'tis *devils* must print;
And you can't think what havoc these demons sometimes
Choose to make of one's sense, and what's worse, of one's rhymes.
But a week or two since, in my Ode upon Spring,
Which I *meant* to have made a most beautiful thing,
Where I talk'd of the "dewdrops from freshly-blown roses,"
The nasty things made it "from freshly-blown noses!"
And once when, to please my cross Aunt, I had tried
To commemorate some saint of her *clique*, who'd just died,
Having said he "had tak'n up in heav'n his position,"
They made it, he'd "taken up to heaven his physician!"

This is very disheartening; — but brighter days shine,
I rejoice, love, to say, both for me and the Nine;
For, what do you think? — so delightful! next year,
Oh, prepare, dearest girl, for the grand news prepare —
I'm to write in the Keepsake — yes, Kitty, my dear,
To write in the Keepsake, as sure as you're there!!
T'other night, at a Ball, 'twas my fortunate chance
With a very nice elderly Dandy to dance,
Who, 'twas plain, from some hints which I now and then caught,
Was the author of *something* — one couldn't tell what;
But his satisfied manner left no room to doubt
It was something that Colburn had lately brought out.

We convers'd of *belles-lettres* through all the quadrille,
Of poetry, dancing, of prose, standing still;
Talk'd of Intellect's march — whether right 'twas or wrong —
And then settled the point in a bold *en avant*.
In the course of this talk 'twas that, having just hinted
That *I* too had Poems which — long'd to be printed,
He protested, kind man! he had seen, at first sight,
I was actually *born* in the Keepsake to write.
"In the Annals of England let some," he said, "shine,
"But a place in her Annuals, Lady, be thine!
"Even now future Keepsakes seem brightly to rise,
"Through the vista of years, as I gaze on those eyes, —
"All letter'd and press'd, and of large-paper size!"
How un*like* that Magan, who my genius would smother,
And how we, true geniuses, find out each other!

This, and much more he said, with that fine frenzied glance
One so rarely now sees, as we slid through the dance;
Till between us 'twas finally fix'd that, next year,
In this exquisite task I my pen should engage;
And, at parting, he stoop'd down and lisp'd in my ear
These mystical words, which I could but *just* hear,
"Terms for rhyme — if it's *prime* — ten and sixpence per page."
Think, Kitty, my dear, if I heard his words right,
What a mint of half-guineas this small head contains;
If for nothing to write is itself a delight,
Ye Gods, what a bliss to be paid for one's strains!

Having dropp'd the dear fellow a court'sy profound,
Off at once, to inquire all about him, I ran;
And from what I could learn, do you know, dear, I've found
That he's quite a new species of literary man;
One, whose task is — to what will not fashion accustom us?
To *edite* live authors, as if they were posthumous.
For instance — the plan, to be sure, is the oddest! —
If any young he or she author feels modest
In venturing abroad, this kind gentleman-usher
Lends promptly a hand to the interesting blusher;
Indites a smooth Preface, brings merit to light,
Which else might, by accident, shrink out of sight,
And, in short, renders readers and critics polite.
My Aunt says — though scarce on such points one can credit her —
He was Lady Jane Thingumbob's last novel's editor.

'Tis certain the fashion's but newly invented;
And, quick as the change of all things and all names is,
Who knows but, as authors, like girls, are *presented*,
We, girls, may be *edited* soon at St. James's?

I must now close my letter—there's Aunt, in full screech,
Wants to take me to hear some great Irvingite preach:
God forgive me, I'm not much inclin'd, I must say,
To go and sit still to be preach'd at, to-day.
And, besides—'twill be all against dancing, no doubt,
Which my poor Aunt abhors, with such hatred devout,
That, so far from presenting young nymphs with a head,
For their skill in the dance, as of Herod is said,
She'd wish their own heads in the platter, instead.
There, again—coming, Ma'am!—I'll write more, if I can,
Before the post goes,
Your affectionate Fan.

Four o'clock.

Such a sermon!—though *not* about dancing, my dear;
'Twas only on the' end of the world being near.
Eighteen Hundred and Forty's the year that some state
As the time for that accident—some Forty-Eight:[1]
And I own, of the two, I'd prefer much the latter,
As then I shall be an old maid, and 'two'n't matter.
Once more, love, good-bye—I've to make a new cap;
But am now so dead tir'd with this horrid mishap
Of the end of the world, that I *must* take a nap.

LETTER IV.

FROM PATRICK MAGAN, ESQ. TO THE REV. RICHARD ———.

He comes from Erin's speechful shore
Like fervid kettle, bubbling o'er
With hot effusions—hot and weak;
Sound, Humbug, all your hollowest drums,
He comes, of Erin's martyrdoms
To Britain's well-fed Church to speak.

Puff him, ye Journals of the Lord,[2]
Twin prosers, Watchman and Record!
Journals reserv'd for realms of bliss,
Being much too good to sell in this.
Prepare, ye wealthier Saints, your dinners,
Ye Spinsters, spread your tea and crumpets;
And you, ye countless Tracts for Sinners,
Blow all your little penny trumpets.
He comes, the reverend man, to tell
To all who still the Church's part take,
Tales of parsonic woe, that well
Might make ev'n grim Dissenter's heart ache:—
Of ten whole Bishops snatch'd away
For ever from the light of day;
(With God knows, too, how many more,
For whom that doom is yet in store)—
Of Rectors cruelly compell'd
From Bath and Cheltenham to haste home,
Because the tithes, by Pat withheld,
Will *not* to Bath or Cheltenham come;
Nor will the flocks consent to pay
Their parsons thus to stay away;—
Though, with *such* parsons, one may doubt
If 'tisn't money well laid out;—
Of all, in short, and each degree
Of that once happy Hierarchy,
Which us'd to roll in wealth so pleasantly;
But now, alas, is doom'd to see
Its surplus brought to nonplus presently!

Such are the themes this man of pathos,
Priest of prose and Lord of bathos,
Will preach and preach t'ye, till you're dull again;
Then, hail him, Saints, with joint acclaim,
Shout to the stars his tuneful name,
Which Murtagh *was*, ere known to fame,
But now is *Mortimer* O'Mulligan!

All true, Dick, true as you're alive—
I've seen him, some hours since, arrive.
Murtagh is come, the great Itinerant—
And Tuesday, in the market-place,
Intends, to every saint and sinner in't,
To state what *he* calls Ireland's Case;
Meaning thereby the case of *his* shop,—
Of curate, vicar, rector, bishop,
And all those other grades seraphic,
That make men's souls their special traffic,
Though caring not a pin *which* way
The' erratic souls go, so they *pay*.—

[1] With regard to the exact time of this event, there appears to be a difference only of about two or three years among the respective calculators. M. Alphonse Nicole, Docteur en Droit, et Avocat, merely doubts whether it is to be in 1846 or 1847. "A cette époque," he says, "les fidèles peuvent espérer de voir s'effectuer la purification du Sanctuaire."

[2] "Our anxious desire is to be found on the side of the Lord."—*Record Newspaper.*

Just as some roguish country nurse,
Who takes a foundling babe to suckle,
First pops the payment in her purse,
Then leaves poor dear to—suck its knuckle:
Even so these reverend rigmaroles
Pocket the money—starve the souls.
Murtagh, however, in his glory,
Will tell, next week, a different story;
Will make out all these men of barter,
As each a saint, a downright martyr,
Brought to the *stake*—i. e. a *beef* one,
Of all their martyrdoms the chief one;
Though try them even at this, they'll bear it,
If tender and wash'd down with claret.

Meanwhile Miss Fudge, who loves all lions,
Your saintly, *next* to great and high 'uns—
(A Viscount, be he what he may,
Would cut a Saint out, any day,)
Has just announc'd a godly rout,
Where Murtagh's to be first brought out,
And shown in his tame, *week-day* state:—
"Prayers, half-past seven, tea at eight."
Even so the circular missive orders—
Pink cards, with cherubs round the borders.

Haste, Dick—you're lost, if you lose time;
Spinsters at forty-five grow giddy
And Murtagh, with his tropes sublime,
Will surely carry off old Biddy,
Unless some spark at once propose,
And distance him by downright prose.
That sick, rich squire, whose wealth and lands
All pass, they say, to Biddy's hands,
(The patron, Dick, of three fat rectories!)
Is dying of *angina pectoris*;—
So that, unless you're stirring soon,
Murtagh, that priest of puff and pelf,
May come in for a honey-*moon*,
And be the *man* of it, himself!

As for *me*, Dick—'tis whim, 'tis folly,
But this young niece absorbs me wholly.
'Tis true, the girl's a vile verse-maker—
Would rhyme all nature, if you'd let her;—
But even her oddities, plague take her,
But make me love her all the better.
Too true it is, she's bitten sadly
With this new rage for rhyming badly,
Which late hath seiz'd all ranks and classes,
Down to that new Estate, "the masses;
Till one pursuit all taste combines—
One common rail-road o'er Parnassus,
Where, sliding in those tuneful grooves,
Call'd couplets, all creation moves,
And the whole world runs mad *in lines*.

Add to all this—what's even still worse,
As rhyme itself, though still a curse,
Sounds better to a chinking purse—
Scarce sixpence hath my charmer got,
While I can muster just a groat;
So that, computing self and Venus,
Tenpence would clear the' amount between us.

However, things may yet prove better:—
Meantime, what awful length of letter!
And how, while heaping thus with gibes
The Pegasus of modern scribes,
My own small hobby of farrago
Hath beat the pace at which even *they* go!

LETTER V.

FROM LARRY O'BRANIGAN, IN ENGLAND, TO HIS WIFE JUDY, AT MULLINAFAD.

Dear Judy, I sind you this bit of a letther,
By mail-coach conveyance—for want of a bet-
ther—
To tell you what luck in this world I have had
Since I left the sweet cabin, at Mullinafad.
Och, Judy, that night!—when the pig which we
meant
To dry-nurse, in the parlour, to pay off the rent,
Julianna, the craythur—that name was the death
of her[1]—
Gave us the shlip and we saw the last breath of
her!
And *there* were the childher, six innocent sowls,
For their nate little play-fellow tuning up howls;
While yourself, my dear Judy (though grievin's a
folly),
Stud over Julianna's remains, melancholy—
Cryin', half for the craythur, and half for the money,
"Arrah, why did ye die till we'd sowl'd you, my
honey?"

But God's will be done!—and then, faith, sure
enough,
As the pig was desaiced, 'twas high time to be off.
So we gother'd up all the poor duds we could catch,
Lock'd the owld cabin-door, put the kay in the
thatch,
Then tuk laave of each other's sweet lips in the dark,
And set off, like the Chrishtians turn'd out of the
Ark;

[1] The Irish peasantry are very fond of giving fine names to their pigs. I have heard of one instance in which a couple of young pigs were named, at their birth, Abelard and Eloisa.

The six childher with you, my dear Judy, ochone!
And poor I wid myself, left condolin' alone.

How I came to this England, o'er say and o'er lands,
And what cruel hard walkin' I've had on my hands,
Is, at this present writin', too tadious to speak,
So I'll mintion it all in a postscript, next week:—
Only starv'd I was, surely, as thin as a lath,
Till I came to an up-and-down place they call Bath,
Where, as luck was, I manag'd to make a meal's meat,
By dhraggin owld ladies all day through the street—
Which their docthors (who pocket, like fun, the pound starlins,)
Have brought into fashion to plase the owld darlins.
Div'l a boy in all Bath, though *I* say it, could carry
The grannies up hill half so handy as Larry;
And the higher they liv'd, like owld crows, in the air,
The more *I* was wanted to lug them up there.

But luck has two handles, dear Judy, they say,
And mine has *both* handles put on the wrong way.
For, pondherin', one morn, on a drame I'd just had
Of yourself and the babbies, at Mullinafad,
Och, there came o'er my sinses so plasin' a flutther,
That I spilt an owld Countess right clane in the gutther,
Muff, feathers and all!—the descint was most awful,
And—what was still worse, faith—I knew 'twas unlawful:
For, though, with mere *women*, no very great evil,
To' upset an owld *Countess* in Bath is the divil!
So, liftin' the chair, with herself safe upon it,
(For nothin' about her was *kilt*, but her bonnet,)
Without even mentionin' "By your lave, ma'am,"
I tuk to my heels and—here, Judy, I am!

What's the name of this town I can't say very well,
But your heart sure will jump when you hear what befell
Your own beautiful Larry, the very first day,
(And a Sunday it was, shinin' out mighty gay,)
When his brogues to this city of luck found their way.
Bein' hungry, God help me, and happenin' to stop,
Just to dine on the shmell of a pasthry-cook's shop,
I saw, in the window, a large printed paper,
And read there a name, och! that made my heart caper—
Though printed it was in some quare A B C,
That might bother a schoolmasther, let alone *me*.
By gor, you'd have laugh'd, Judy, could you've but listen'd,
As, doubtin', I cried, "why it *is!*—no, it *isn't:*"
But it *was*, after all—for, by spellin' quite slow,
First I made out "Rev. Mortimer"—then a great "O;"
And, at last, by hard readin' and rackin' my skull again,
Out it came, nate as imported, "O'Mulligan!"

Up I jump'd, like a sky-lark, my jewel, at that name,—
Div'l a doubt on my mind, but it *must* be the same.
"Masther Murthagh, *himself*," says I, "all the world over!
My own fosther-brother—by jinks, I'm *in* clover.
Though *there*, in the play-bill, he figures so grand,
One wet-nurse it was brought us *both* up by hand,
And he'll not let me shtarve in the inemy's land!"

Well, to make a long hishtory short, niver doubt
But I manag'd, in no time, to find the lad out;
And the joy of the meetin' bethuxt him and me,
Such a pair of owld cumrogues—was charmin' to see.
Nor is Murthagh less plas'd with the' evint than *I* am,
As he just then was wanting a Valley-de-sham;
And, for *dressin'* a gintleman, one way or t'other,
Your nate Irish lad is beyant every other.

But now, Judy, comes the quare part of the case;
And, in throth, it's the only drawback on my place,
'Twas Murthagh's ill luck to be cross'd, as you know,
With an awkward mishfortune some short time ago;
That's to say, he turn'd Protestant—*why*, I can't larn;
But, of coorse, he knew best, an' it's not *my* consarn.
All I know is, we both were good Cath'lics, at nurse,
And myself am so still—nayther betther nor worse.
Well, our bargain was all right and tight in a jiffey,
And lads more contint never yet left the Liffey,
When Murthagh—or Morthimer, as he's *now* chrishen'd
His *name* being convarted, at laist, if *he* isn't—
Lookin' sly at me (faith, 'twas divartin' to see)
"*Of coorse*, you're a Protestant, Larry," says he.
Upon which says myself, wid a wink just as shly,
"Is't a Protestant?—oh yes, *I am*, sir," says I;—
And there the chat ended, and div'l a more word
Controversial between us has since then occurr'd.

What Murthagh could mane, and, in troth, Judy dear,
What *I myself* meant, doesn't seem mighty clear;
But the thruth is, though still for the Owld Light a stickler,
I was just then too shtarv'd to be over partic'lar:—

And, God knows, between us, a comic'ler pair
Of twin Protestants couldn't be seen *any* where.

Next Tuesday (as towld in the play-bills I mintion'd,
Address'd to the loyal and godly intintion'd,)
His rivirence, my master, comes forward to preach,—
Myself doesn't know whether sarmon or speech,
But it's all one to him, he's a dead hand at each;
Like us, Paddys, in gin'ral, whose skill in orations
Quite bothers the blarney of all other nations.

But, whisht!—there's his Rivirence, shoutin' out "Larry,"
And sorra a word more will this shmall paper carry;
So, here, Judy, ends my short bit of a letther,
Which, faix, I'd have made a much bigger and betther,
But div'l a one Post-office hole in this town
Fit to swallow a dacent siz'd billy-dux down.
So good luck to the childer!—tell Molly, I love her;
Kiss Oonagh's sweet mouth, and kiss Katty all over—
Not forgettin' the mark of the red currant whiskey
She got at the fair when yourself was so frisky.
The heavens be your bed!—I will write, when I can again,
Yours to the world's end,

LARRY O'BRANIGAN.

LETTER VI.

FROM MISS BIDDY FUDGE, TO MRS. ELIZABETH ———.

How I grieve you're not with us!—pray, come, if you can,
Ere we're robb'd of this dear oratorical man,
Who combines in himself all the multiple glory
Of Orangeman, Saint, *quondam* Papist and Tory;—
(Choice mixture! like that from which, duly confounded,
The best sort of *brass* was, in old times, compounded)—
The sly and the saintly, the worldly and godly,
All fus'd down in brogue so deliciously oddly!
In short, he's a *dear*—and *such* audiences draws,
Such loud peals of laughter and shouts of applause,
As *can't* but do good to the Protestant cause.

Poor dear Irish Church!—he to-day sketch'd a view
Of her history and prospects, to *me* at least new,
And which (if it *takes* as it ought) must arouse
The whole Christian world her just rights to espouse.
As to *reasoning*—you know, dear, that's now of no use,
People still will their *facts* and dry *figures* produce,
As if saving the souls of a Protestant flock were
A thing to be manag'd "according to Cocker!"
In vain do we say, (when rude radicals hector
At paying some thousands a year to a Rector,
In places where Protestants *never yet were*,)
"Who knows but young Protestants *may* be born there?"
And granting such accident, think, what a shame,
If they didn't find Rector and Clerk when they came!
It is clear that, without such a staff on full pay,
These little Church embryos *must* go astray;
And, while fools are computing what Parsons would cost, [lost!
Precious *souls* are meanwhile to the' Establishment

In vain do we put the case sensibly thus;—
They'll still with their figures and facts make a fuss,
And ask "if, while all, choosing each his own road,
Journey on, as we can, towards the Heavenly Abode,
It is right that *seven* eights of the travellers should pay
For *one* eighth that goes quite a different way?"—
Just as if, foolish people, this wasn't, in reality,
A proof of the Church's extreme liberality,
That, though hating Popery in *other* respects,
She to Catholic *money* in no way objects;
And so liberal her very best Saints, in this sense,
That they even go to heaven at the Catholic's expense.

But, though clear to *our* minds all these arguments be,
People cannot or *will* not their cogency see;
And, I grieve to confess, did the poor Irish Church
Stand on reasoning alone, she'd be left in the lurch.
It was therefore, dear Lizzy, with joy most sincere,
That I heard this nice Reverend O' *something* we've here,
Produce, from the depths of his knowledge and reading,
A view of that marvellous Church, far exceeding,
In novelty, force, and profoundness of thought,
All that Irving himself, in his glory, e'er taught.

Looking through the whole history, present and past,
Of the Irish Law Church, from the first to the last;

Considering how strange its original birth—
Such a thing having *never* before been on earth—
How oppos'd to the instinct, the law, and the force
Of nature and reason has been its whole course;
Through centuries encount'ring repugnance, resistance,
Scorn, hate, execration—yet still in existence!
Considering all this, the conclusion he draws
Is that Nature exempts this one Church from her laws—
That Reason, dumb-founder'd, gives up the dispute,
And before the portentous anomaly stands mute;—
That, in short, 'tis a Miracle!—and, *once* begun,
And transmitted through ages, from father to son,
For the honour of miracles, *ought to go on.*

Never yet was conclusion so cogent and sound,
Or so fitted the Church's weak foes to confound.
For, observe, the more low all her merits they place,
The more they make out the miraculous case,
And the more all good Christians must deem it profane
To disturb such a prodigy's marvellous reign.

As for scriptural proofs, he quite plac'd beyond doubt
That the whole in the Apocalypse may be found out,
As clear and well-prov'd, he would venture to swear,
As any thing else has been *ever* found there:—
While the mode in which, bless the dear fellow, he deals
With that whole lot of vials and trumpets and seals,
And the ease with which vial on vial he strings,
Shows him quite a *first-rate* at all these sort of things.

So much for theology:—as for the' affairs
Of this temporal world—the light, drawing-room cares
And gay toils of the toilet, which, God knows, I seek,
From no love of such things, but in humbleness meek,
And to be, as the' Apostle was, "weak with the weak,"
Thou wilt find quite enough (till I'm somewhat less busy)
In the' extracts inclosed, my dear news-loving Lizzy.

EXTRACTS FROM MY DIARY.

Thursday.

Last night, having nought more holy to do,
Wrote a letter to dear Sir Andrew Agnew,
About the "Do-nothing-on-Sunday-Club,"
Which we wish by some shorter name to dub:—
As the use of more vowels and consonants
Than a Christian, on Sunday, *really* wants,
Is a grievance that ought to be done away,
And the Alphabet left to rest, that day.

Sunday.

Sir Andrew's answer!—but, shocking to say,
Being franked unthinkingly yesterday,
To the horror of Agnews yet unborn,
It arriv'd on this blessed Sunday morn!!—
How shocking!—the postman's self cried "shame on't,"
Seeing the' immaculate Andrew's name on't!!
What will the Club do?—meet, no doubt.
Tis a matter that touches the Class Devout,
And the friends of the Sabbath *must* speak out.

Tuesday.

Saw to-day, at the raffle—and saw it with pain—
That those stylish Fitzwigrams begin to dress plain.
Even gay little Sophy smart trimmings renounces—
She, who long has stood by me through all sorts of flounces,
And showed, by upholding the toilet's sweet rites,
That we, girls, may be Christians, without being frights.
This, I own, much alarms me; for though one's religious, [hideous;
And strict and—all that, there's no need to be
And why a nice bonnet should stand in the way
Of one's going to heaven, 'tisn't easy to say.

Then, there's Gimp, the poor thing—if her custom we drop,
Pray, what's to become of her soul and her shop?
If by saints like ourselves no more orders are given,
She'll lose all the interest she now takes in heaven;
And this nice little "fire-brand, pluck'd from the burning,"
May fall in again at the very next turning.

Wednesday.

Mem.—To write to the India-Mission Society;
And send £20—heavy tax upon piety!

Of all Indian luxuries we now-a-days boast,
Making "Company's Christians[1]" perhaps costs the most.

[1] The title given by the natives to such of their countrymen as become converts.

And the worst of it is, that these converts full grown,
Having liv'd in *our* faith, mostly die in their *own*,[1]
Praying hard, at the last, to some god who, they say,
When incarnate on earth, used to steal curds and whey.[2]
Think, how horrid, my dear!—so that all's thrown away;
And (what is still worse) for the rum and the rice
They consum'd, while believers, we saints pay the price.

Still 'tis cheering to find that we *do* save a few—
The Report gives six Christians for Cunnangcadoo;
Doorkotchum reckons seven, and four Trevandrum,
While but one and a half's left at Cooroopadum.
In this last-mention'd place 'tis the barbers enslave 'em,
For, once they turn Christians, no barber will shave 'em.[3]

To atone for this rather small Heathen amount,
Some Papists, turn'd Christians[4], are tack'd to the' account.
And though, to catch Papists, one needn't go so far,
Such fish are worth hooking, wherever they are;
And *now*, when so great of such converts the lack is,
One Papist well caught is worth millions of Blackies.

Friday.

Last night had a dream so odd and funny,
I cannot resist recording it here.—
Methought that the Genius of Matrimony
Before me stood, with a joyous leer,
Leading a husband in each hand,
And both for *me*, which look'd rather queer;—
One I could perfectly understand,
But why there were *two* wasn't quite so clear.
'Twas meant, however, I soon could see,
To afford me a *choice*—a most excellent plan;
And—who should this brace of candidates be,
But Messrs. O'Mulligan and Magan:—
A thing, I suppose, unheard of till then,
To dream, at once, of *two* Irishmen!—
That handsome Magan, too, with wings on his shoulders
(For all this pass'd in the realms of the Blest,)
And quite a creature to dazzle beholders;
While even O'Mulligan, feather'd and drest
As an elderly cherub, was looking his best.
Ah Liz, you, who know me, scarce can doubt
As to *which* of the two I singled out.
But—awful to tell—when, all in dread
Of losing so bright a vision's charms,
I grasp'd at Magan, his image fled,
Like a mist, away, and I found but the head
Of O'Mulligan, wings and all, in my arms!
The Angel had flown to some nest divine,
And the elderly Cherub alone was mine!
Heigho!—it is certain that foolish Magan
Either can't or *wo'n't* see that he *might* be the man;
And, perhaps, dear—who knows?—if nought better befall
But—O'Mulligan *may* be the man, after all.

N.B.
Next week mean to have my first scriptural rout,
For the special discussion of matters devout;—
Like those *soirées*, at Powerscourt[5], so justly renown'd,
For the zeal with which doctrine and negus went round;
Those theology routs which the pious LordR—d—n,
That pink of Christianity, first set the mode in;

[1] Of such relapses we find innumerable instances in the accounts of the Missionaries.

[2] The god Krishna, one of the incarnations of the god Vishnu. "One day (says the Bhagavata) Krishna's playfellows complained to Yasuda that he had pilfered and ate their curds."

[3] "Roteen wants shaving; but the barber here will not do it. He is run away lest he should be compelled. He says he will not shave Yesoo Kreest's people." —*Bapt. Mission Society*, vol. ii. p. 493.

[4] In the Reports of the Missionaries, the Roman Catholics are almost always classed along with the Heathen. "I have extended my labours, (says James Venning, in a Report for 1831,) to the Heathen, Mahomedans, and Roman Catholics." "The Heathen and Roman Catholics in this neighbourhood (says another missionary for the year 1832) are not indifferent, but withstand, rather than yield to, the force of truth."

[5] An account of these Powerscourt Conversaziones (under the direct presidency of Lord Roden), as well as a list of the subjects discussed at the different meetings, may be found in the Christian Herald for the month of December, 1832. The following is a specimen of the nature of the question submitted to the company:—"*Monday Evening, Six o'clock, September* 24. 1832.—'An examination into the quotations given in the New Testament from the Old, with their connection and explanation, viz. &c. &c.'—*Wednesday.*—'Should we expect a personal Antichrist? *and to whom will he be revealed?*' &c. &c.—*Friday.*—'What light does Scripture throw on present events, and their moral character? *What is next to be looked for or expected?*'" &c.

The rapid progress made at these tea parties in settling points of Scripture, may be judged from a paragraph in the account given of one of their evenings, by the Christian Herald:—

"On Daniel a good deal of light was thrown, and there was some, I think not so much, perhaps, upon the Revelations; though particular parts of it were discussed with considerable accession of knowledge. There was some very interesting inquiry as to the quotation of the Old Testament in the New; particularly on the point, whether there was any 'accommodation,' or whether they were quoted according to the mind of the Spirit in the Old: this gave occasion to some very interesting development of Scripture. The progress of the Antichristian powers was very fully discussed."

Where, blessed down-pouring![1] from tea until nine,
The subjects lay all in the Prophecy line;—
Then, supper—and then, if for topics hard driven,
From thence until bed-time to Satan was given;
While R—d—n, deep read in each topic and tome,
On all subjects (especially the last) was *at home*.

LETTER VII.

FROM MISS FANNY FUDGE, TO HER COUSIN, MISS KITTY ———.

IRREGULAR ODE.

BRING me the slumbering souls of flowers,
While yet, beneath some northern sky,
Ungilt by beams, ungemm'd by showers,
They wait the breath of summer hours,
To wake to light each diamond eye,
And let loose every florid sigh!

Bring me the first-born ocean waves,
From out those deep primeval caves,
Where from the dawn of Time they've lain—
THE EMBRYOS OF A FUTURE MAIN!—
Untaught as yet, young things, to speak
The language of their PARENT SEA
(Polyphlysbæan[2] nam'd in Greek),
Though soon, too soon, in bay and creek,
Round startled isle and wondering peak,
They'll thunder loud and long as HE!

Bring me, from Hecla's iced abode,
Young fires——

I had got, dear, thus far in my ODE,
Intending to fill the whole page to the bottom,
But, having invok'd such a lot of fine things,
Flowers, billows and thunderbolts, rainbows and wings,
Didn't know *what* to do with 'em, when *I* had got 'em.
The truth is, my thoughts are too full, at this minute,
Of past MSS. any new ones to try.
This very night's coach brings my destiny in it—
Decides the great question, to live or to die!
And, whether I'm henceforth immortal or no,
All depends on the answer of Simpkins and Co.!

You'll think, love, I rave, so 'tis best to let out
The whole secret, at once—I have publish'd a Book!!!
Yes, an actual Book:—if the marvel you doubt,
You have only in last Monday's Courier to look,
And you'll find "This day publish'd by Simpkins and Co.
A Romaunt, in twelve Cantos, entitled 'Woe Woe!'
By Miss Fanny F——, known more commonly *so* ☞."
This I put that my friends mayn't be left in the dark,
But may guess at my *writing* by knowing my *mark*.

How I manag'd, at last, this great deed to achieve,
Is itself a "Romaunt" which you'd scarce, dear, believe;
Nor can I just now, being all in a whirl,
Looking out for the Magnet[3], explain it, dear girl.
Suffice it to say, that one half the expense
Of this leasehold of fame for long centuries hence—
(Though "God knows," as aunt says, my humble ambition
Aspires not beyond a small Second Edition,)—
One half the whole cost of the paper and printing,
I've manag'd to scrape up, this year past, by stinting
My own little wants in gloves, ribands, and shoes,
Thus defrauding the toilet to fit out the Muse!

And who, my dear Kitty, would not do the same?
What's *eau de Cologne* to the sweet breath of fame?
Yards of riband soon end—but the measures of rhyme,
Dipp'd in hues of the rainbow, stretch out through all time.
Gloves languish and fade away, pair after pair,
While couplets shine out, but the brighter for wear,
And the dancing-shoe's gloss in an evening is gone,
While light-footed lyrics through ages trip on.

The remaining expense, trouble, risk—and, alas!
My poor copyright too—into other hands pass;
And my friend, the Head Dev'l of the "County Gazette"
(The only Mecœnas I've ever had yet),
He who set up in type my first juvenile lays,
Is now set up by them for the rest of his days;
And while Gods (as my "Heathen Mythology" says)
Live on nought but ambrosia, *his* lot how much sweeter
To live, lucky dev'l, on a young lady's metre!

[1] "About eight o'clock the Lord began to pour down his spirit copiously upon us—for they had all by this time assembled in my room for the purpose of prayer. This down-pouring continued till about ten o'clock."—Letter from Mary Campbell to the Rev. John Campbell, of Row, (dated Fernicary, April 4. 1830,) giving an account of her "miraculous cure."

[2] If you guess what this word means, 'tis more than *I* can:—I but give't as I got it from Mr. Magan. F. F.

[3] A day-coach of that name.

As for *puffing*—that first of all lit'rary boons,
And essential alike both to bards and balloons—
As, unless well supplied with inflation, 'tis found
Neither bards nor balloons budge an inch from the ground;—
In *this* respect, nought could more prosp'rous befall;
As my friend (for no less this kind imp can I call)
Knows the whole world of critics—the *hypers* and all.
I suspect he himself, indeed, dabbles in rhyme,
Which, for imps diabolic, is not the first time;
As I've heard uncle Bob say, 'twas known among Gnostics,
That the Dev'l on Two Sticks was a dev'l at Acrostics.

But hark! there's the Magnet just dash'd in from Town—
How my heart, Kitty, beats! I shall surely drop down.
That awful Court Journal, Gazette, Athenæum,
All full of my book—I shall sink when I see 'em.
And then the great point—whether Simpkins and Co.
Are actually pleas'd with their bargain or no!—

Five o'clock.

All's delightful—such praises!—I really fear
That this poor little head will turn giddy, my dear;
I've but time now to send you two exquisite scraps—
All the rest by the Magnet, on Monday, perhaps.

FROM THE "MORNING POST."

'Tis known that a certain distinguish'd physician
Prescribes, for *dyspepsia*, a course of light reading;
And Rhymes by young Ladies, the first, fresh edition
(Ere critics have injur'd their powers of nutrition),
Are he thinks, for weak stomachs, the best sort of feeding.
Satires irritate—love-songs are found calorific;
But smooth, female sonnets he deems a specific,
And, if taken at bed-time, a sure soporific.
Among works of this kind, the most pleasing we know,
Is a volume just publish'd by Simpkins and Co.,
Where all such ingredients—the flowery, the sweet,
And the gently narcotic—'are mix'd *per* receipt,
With a hand so judicious, we've no hesitation
To say that—'bove all, for the young generation—
'Tis an elegant, soothing, and safe preparation.

Nota bene—for readers, whose object's *to sleep*,
And who read, in their nightcaps, the publishers keep
Good fire-proof binding, which comes very cheap.

ANECDOTE—FROM THE "COURT JOURNAL."

T'other night, at the Countess of * * *'s rout,
An amusing event was much whisper'd about,
It was said that Lord ——, at the Council, that day,
Had, more than once, jump'd from his seat, like a rocket,
And flown to a corner, where—heedless, they say,
How the country's resources were squander'd away—
He kept reading some papers he'd brought in his pocket.
Some thought them despatches from Spain or the Turk,
Others swore they brought word we had lost the Mauritius;
But it turn'd out 'twas only Miss Fudge's new work,
Which his Lordship devour'd with such zeal expeditious—
Messrs. Simpkins and Co., to avoid all delay,
Having sent it in sheets, that his Lordship might say,
He had distanc'd the whole reading world by a day!

LETTER VIII.

FROM BOB FUDGE, ESQ., TO THE REV. MORTIMER O'MULLIGAN.

Tuesday evening.

I MUCH regret, dear Reverend Sir,
I could not come to * * * to meet you;
But this curst gout wo'n't let me stir—
Ev'n now I but by proxy greet you,
As this vile scrawl, whate'er its sense is,
Owes all to an amanuensis.
Most other scourges of disease
Reduce men to *extremities*—
But gout wo'n't leave one even *these*.

From all my sister writes, I see
That you and I will quite agree.
I'm a plain man, who speak the truth,
And trust you'll think me not uncivil,
When I declare that, from my youth,
I've wish'd your country at the devil:
Nor can I doubt, indeed, from all
I've heard of your high patriot fame—
From every word your lips let fall—
That you most truly wish the same.
It plagues one's life out—thirty years
Have I had dinning in my ears,
"Ireland wants this, and that, and t'other,"

And, to this hour, one nothing hears
But the same vile, eternal bother.
While, of those countless things she wanted,
Thank God, but little has been granted,
And ev'n that little, if we're men
And Britons, we'll have back again!

I really think that Catholic question
Was what brought on my indigestion;
And still each year, as Popery's curse
Has gather'd round us, I've got worse;
Till ev'n my pint of port a day
Can't keep the Pope and bile away.
And whereas, till the Catholic bill,
I never wanted draught or pill,
The settling of that cursed question
Has quite *un*settled my digestion.

Look what has happen'd since—the Elect
Of all the bores of every sect,
The chosen triers of men's patience,
From all the Three Denominations,
Let loose upon us;—even Quakers
Turn'd into speechers and law-makers,
Who'll move no question, stiff-rump'd elves,
Till first the Spirit moves themselves;
And whose shrill Yeas and Nays, in chorus,
Conquering our Ays and Nos sonorous,
Will soon to death's own slumber snore us.
Then, too, those Jews!—I really sicken
To think of such abomination;
Fellows, who wo'n't eat ham with chicken,
To legislate for this great nation!—
Depend upon't, when once they've sway,
With rich old Goldsmid at the head o' them,
The' Excise laws will be done away,
And *Circum*cise ones pass'd instead o' them!

In short, dear sir, look where one will,
Things all go on so devilish ill,
That 'pon my soul, I rather fear
Our reverend Rector may be right,
Who tells me the Millennium's near;
Nay, swears he knows the very year,
And regulates his leases by't;—
Meaning their terms should end, no doubt,
Before the world's own lease is out.
He thinks, too, that the whole thing's ended
So much more soon than was intended,
Purely to scourge those men of sin
Who brought the' accurst Reform Bill in.[1]

However, let's not yet despair;
Though Toryism's eclips'd, at present,
And—like myself, in this old chair—
Sits in a state by no means pleasant;
Feet crippled—hands, in luckless hour,
Disabled of their grasping power;
And all that rampant glee, which revell'd
In this world's sweets, be-dull'd, bedevil'd—
Yet, though condemn'd to frisk no more,
And both in Chair of Penance set,
There's something tells me, all's not o'er,
With Toryism or Bobby yet;
That though, between us, I allow
We've not a leg to stand on now;
Though curst Reform and *colchicum*
Have made us both look deuced glum,
Yet still, in spite of Grote and Gout,
Again we'll shine triumphant out!

Yes—back again shall come, egad,
Our turn for sport, my reverend lad.
And then, O'Mulligan—oh then,
When mounted on our nags again,
You, on your high-flown Rosinante,
Bedizen'd out, like Show-Gallantee
(Glitter great from substance scanty);—
While I, Bob Fudge, Esquire, shall ride
Your faithful Sancho, by your side;
Then—talk of tilts and tournaments!
Dam'me, we'll ——

* * * * *

'Squire Fudge's clerk presents
To Reverend Sir his compliments;
Is griev'd to say an accident
Has just occurr'd which will prevent
The Squire—though now a little better—
From finishing this present letter.
Just when he'd got to "Dam'me, we'll ——"
His Honour, full of martial zeal,
Grasp'd at his crutch, but not being able
To keep his balance or his hold,
Tumbled, both self and crutch, and roll'd
Like ball and bat, beneath the table.

All's safe—the table, chair, and crutch;—
Nothing, thank God, is broken much,
But the Squire's head, which, in the fall,
Got bump'd consid'rably—that's all.
At this no great alarm we feel,
As the Squire's head can bear a deal.

[1] This appears to have been the opinion also of an eloquent writer in the Morning Watch. "One great object of Christ's second Advent, as the Man and as the King of the Jews, is to *punish the Kings* who do not acknowledge that their authority is derived from him, and *who submit to receive it from that many-headed monster, the mob.*" No. x. p. 373.

Wednesday morning.

Squire much the same—head rather light—
Rav'd about "Barbers' Wigs" all night.

Our housekeeper, old Mrs. Griggs,
Suspects that he meant "barbarous Whigs."

LETTER IX.

FROM LARRY O'BRANIGAN, TO HIS WIFE JUDY.

As it was but last week that I sint you a letther,
You'll wondher, dear Judy, what this is about;
And, throth, it's a letther myself would like betther,
Could I manage to lave the contints of it out;
For sure, if it makes even *me* onaisy,
Who takes things quiet, 'twill dhrive *you* crazy.

Oh, Judy, that riverind Murthagh, bad scran to him!
That e'er I should come to've been sarvant-man to him,
Or so far demane the O'Branigan blood,
And my Aunts, the Diluvians (whom not ev'n the Flood
Was able to wash away clane from the earth)[1]
As to sarve one whose name, of mere yestherday's birth,
Can no more to a great O, *before* it, purtend,
Than mine can to wear a great Q at its *end*.

But that's now all over—last night I gev warnin',
And, masth'r as he is, will discharge him this mornin'.
The thief of the world!—but it's no use balragin';—[2]
All I know is, I'd fifty times rather be draggin'
Ould ladies up hill to the ind of my days,
Than with Murthagh to rowl in a chaise, at my aise,
And be forc'd to discind thro' the same dirty ways.
Arrah, sure, if I'd heerd where he last show'd his phiz,
I'd have known what a quare sort of monsther he is;
For, by gor, 'twas at Exether Change, sure enough,
That himself and his other wild Irish show'd off;
And it's pity, so 'tis, that they had'nt got no man
Who knew the wild craythurs to act as their show-man—
Sayin', "Ladies and Gintlemen, plaze to take notice,
"How shlim and how shleek this black animal's coat is;
"All by raison, we're towld, that the nathur o' the baste
"Is to change its coat *once* in its lifetime, *at laste*;
"And such objiks, in *our* counthry, not bein' common ones,
"Are *bought up*, as this was, by way of Fine Nomenons.
"In regard of its *name*—why, in throth, I'm consarn'd
"To differ on this point so much with the Larn'd,
"Who call it a '*Morthimer*,' whereas the craythur
"Is plainly a 'Murthagh,' by name and by nathur."

This is how I'd have towld them the rights of it all,
Had *I* been their showman at Exether Hall—
Not forgettin' that other great wondher of Airin
(Of th' owld bitther breed which they call Prosbetairin),
The fam'd Daddy C—ke—who, by gor, I'd have shown 'em
As proof how such bastes may be tam'd, when you've thrown 'em
A good frindly sop of the rale *Raigin Donem*.[3]

But, throth, I've no laisure just now, Judy dear,
For any thing, barrin' our own doings here,
And the cursin' and dammin' and thund'rin, like mad,
We Papists, God help us, from Murthagh have had.
He says we're all murtherers—div'l a bit less—
And that even our priests, when we go to confess,
Give us lessons in murth'ring and wish us success!

When ax'd how he daar'd, by tongue or by pen,
To belie, in this way, seven millions of men,
Faith, he said 'twas all towld him by Docthor Den![4]

[1] "I am of your Patriarchs, I, a branch of one of your antediluvian families—fellows that the Flood could not wash away."—CONGREVE, *Love for Love*.

[2] To *balrag* is to abuse—Mr. Lover makes it *ballyrag*, and he is high authority: but if I remember rightly, Curran in his national stories used to employ the word as above.—See Lover's most amusing and genuinely Irish work, the "Legends and Stories of Ireland."

[3] Larry evidently means the *Regium Donum*:—a sum contributed by the government annually to the support of the Presbyterian churches in Ireland.

[4] Correctly, Dens—Larry not being very particular in his nomenclature.

"And who the div'l's *he?*" was the question that flew
From Chrishtian to Chrishtian — but not a sowl knew.
While on went Murthagh, in iligant style,
Blasphaming us Cath'lics all the while,
As a pack of desaivers, parjurers, villians,
All the whole kit of th' aforesaid millions, —[1]
Yourself, dear Judy, as well as the rest,
And the innocent craythur that's at your breast,
All rogues together, in word and deed,
Owld Den our insthructor and Sin our creed!

When ax'd for his proofs again and again,
Div'l an answer he'd give but Docthor Den.
Couldn't he call into coort some *livin'* men?
"No, thank you" — he'd stick to Docthor Den —
An ould gentleman dead a century or two,
Who all about *us*, live Cath'lics, knew;
And of coorse was more handy, to call in a hurry,
Than Docthor Mac Hale or Docthor Murray!

But, throth, it's no case to be jokin' upon,
Though myself, from bad habits, is *makin'* it one.
Even *you*, had you witness'd his grand climac-therics,
Which actially threw one owld maid in hysteries —
Or, och! had you heerd such a purty remark as his,
That Papist's are only "*Humanity's carcasses,*
"*Ris'n*" — but, by dad, I'm afeard I can't give it ye —
"*Ris'n from the sepulchre of — inactivity;*
"*And, like owld corpses, dug up from antikity,*
"*Wandrin' about in all sorts of inikity!!*" —[2]
Even you, Judy, true as you are to the Owld Light, [flight
Would have laugh'd, out and out, at this iligant
Of that figure of speech call'd the Blatherumskite.
As for me, though a funny thought now and then came to me,
Rage got the betther at last — and small blame to me!
So, slapping my thigh, "by the Powers of Delf,"
Says I bowldly, "I'll make a noration myself."
And with that up I jumps — but, my darlint, the minit
I cock'd up my head, div'l a sinse remain'd in it.

Though, *saited*, I could have got beautiful on,
When I tuk to my legs, faith, the gab was all gone:—
Which was odd, for us, Pats, who, whate'er we've a hand in,
At laste in our *legs* show a sthrong understandin.'

Howsumdever, detarmin'd the chaps should pursaive
What I thought of their doin's, before I tuk lave,
"In regard of all that," says I — there I stopp'd short —
Not a word more would come, though I sthruggled hard for't.
So, shnapping my fingers at what's call'd the Chair,
And the owld Lord (or Lady, I b'lieve) that sat there —
"In regard of all that," says I bowldly again —
"To owld Nick I pitch Mortimer — *and* Docthor Den;" —
Upon which the whole company cried out "Amen;"
And myself was in hopes 'twas to what *I* had said,
But, by gor, no such thing — they were not so well bred:
For, 'twas all to a pray'r Murthagh just had read out,
By way of fit finish to job so devout;
That is — *afther* well damning one half the community,
To pray God to keep all in peace an' in unity!

This is all I can shtuff in this letther, though plinty
Of news, faith, I've got to fill more — if 'twas twinty.
But I'll add, on the *outside*, a line, should I need it,
(Writin' "Private" upon it, that no one may read it,)
To tell you how *Mortimer* (as the Saints chrishten him) [him.
Bears the big shame of his sarvant's dismisshin'

(*Private outside.*)

Just come from his riv'rence — the job is all done —
By the powers, I've discharg'd him as sure as a gun!
And now, Judy dear, what on earth I'm to do
With myself and my appetite — both good as new —
Without ev'n a single traneen in my pocket,
Let alone a good, dacent pound-starlin', to stock it —
Is a mysht'ry I lave to the One that's above,
Who takes care of us, dissolute sowls, when hard dhrove!

[1] "The deeds of darkness which are reduced to horrid practice over the drunken debauch of the midnight assassin are debated, in principle, in the sober morning religious conference of the priests." — *Speech of the Rev. Mr. M'Ghee.* — "The character of the Irish people *generally* is, that they are given to lying and to acts of theft." — *Speech of the Rev. Robert Daly.*

[2] "But she (Popery) is no longer *the tenant of the sepulchre of inactivity.* She has come from the burial-place, walking forth a monster, as if the spirit of evil had corrupted *the carcass of her departed humanity;* noxious and noisome, an object of abhorrence and dismay to all who are not *leagued with her in iniquity.*" — Report of the Rev. Gentleman's Speech, June 20, in the Record Newspaper.

We may well ask, after reading this and other such reverend ravings, "Quis dubitat quin omne sit *hoc rationis* egestas?"

LETTER X.

FROM THE REV. MORTIMER O'MULLIGAN, TO THE REV. ————

THESE few brief lines, my reverend friend,
By a safe, private hand I send,
(Fearing lest some low Catholic wag
Should pry into the Letter-bag,)
To tell you, far as pen can dare,
How we, poor errant martyrs, fare;—
Martyrs, not quite to fire and rack,
As Saints were, some few ages back,
But—scarce less trying in its way—
To laughter, wheresoe'er we stray;
To jokes, which Providence mysterious
Permits on men and things so serious,
Lowering the Church still more each minute,
And—injuring our preferment in it.
Just think, how worrying 'tis, my friend,
To find, where'er our footsteps bend,
Small jokes, like squibs, around us whizzing;
And bear the eternal torturing play
Of that great engine of our day,
Unknown to the' Inquisition—quizzing!

Your men of thumb-screws and of racks
Aim'd at the *body* their attacks;
But modern torturers, more refin'd,
Work *their* machinery on the *mind.*
Had St. Sebastian had the luck
With me to be a godly rover,
Instead of arrows, he'd be stuck
With stings of ridicule all over;
And poor St. Lawrence, who was kill'd
By being on a gridir'n grill'd,
Had he but shar'd *my* errant lot,
Instead of grill on gridir'n hot,
A *moral* roasting would have got.
Nor should I (trying as all this is)
Much heed the suffering or the shame—
As, like an actor, *used* to hisses,
I long have known no other fame,
But that (as I may own to *you,*
Though to the *world* it would not do,)
No hope appears of fortune's beams
Shining on *any* of my schemes;
No chance of something more *per ann.*
As supplement to K—llym—n;
No prospect that, by fierce abuse
Of Ireland, I shall e'er induce
The rulers of this thinking nation
To rid us of Emancipation;
To forge anew the sever'd chain,
And bring back Penal Laws again.

Ah, happy time! when wolves and priests
Alike were hunted, as wild beasts;
And five pounds was the price, *per* head,
For bagging *either,* live or dead;—[1]
Though oft, we're told, *one* outlaw'd brother
Sav'd cost, by eating up *the other.*

Finding thus all those schemes and hopes
I built upon my flowers and tropes
All scatter'd, one by one, away,
As flashy and unsound as they,
The question comes—what's to be done?
And there's but one course left me—*one.*
Heroes, when tired of war's alarms,
Seek sweet repose in beauty's arms.
The weary Day-God's last retreat is
The breast of silv'ry-footed Thetis;
And mine, as mighty Love's my judge,
Shall be the arms of rich Miss Fudge!

Start not, my friend,—the tender scheme
Wild and romantic though it seem,
Beyond a parson's fondest dream,
Yet shines, too, with those golden dyes
So pleasing to a parson's eyes—
That only *gilding* which the muse
Cannot around *her* sons diffuse;—
Which, whencesoever flows its bliss,
From wealthy Miss or benefice,
To Mortimer indiff'rent is,
So he can make it only *his.*
There is but one slight damp I see
Upon this scheme's felicity,
And that is, the fair heroine's claim
That I shall take *her* family name.
To this (though it may look henpeck'd),
I can't quite decently object,
Having myself long chos'n to shine
Conspicuous in the *alias*[2] line;
So that henceforth, by wife's decree,
(For Biddy from this point wo'nt budge)
Your old friend's new address must be
The *Rev. Mortimer O'Fudge*—

[1] "Among other amiable enactments against the Catholics at this period (1649), the price of five pounds was set on the head of a Romish priest—being exactly the same sum offered by the same legislators for the head of a wolf."
Memoirs of Captain Rock, book i. chap. 10.

[2] In the first edition of his Dictionary, Dr. Johnson very significantly exemplied the meaning of the word "alias" by the instance of Mallet, the poet, who had exchanged for this more refined name his original Scotch patronymic, Malloch. "What *other* proofs he gave (says Johnson) of disrespect to his native country, I know not, but it was remarked of him that he was the only Scot whom Scotchmen did not commend."—*Life of Mallet.*

The " O " being kept, that all may see
We're *both* of ancient family.

Such, friend, nor need the fact amaze you,
My public life's calm Euthanasia.
Thus bid I long farewell to all
The freaks of Exeter's old Hall—
Freaks, in grimace, its apes exceeding,
And rivalling its bears in breeding.
Farewell, the platform fill'd with preachers—
The pray'r giv'n out, as grace [1], by speechers
Ere they cut up their fellow creatures:—
Farewell to dead old Dens's volumes,
And, scarce less dead, old Standard's columns:—
From each and all I now retire,
My task, henceforth, as spouse and sire,
To bring up little filial Fudges,
To be M.P.s, and Peers, and Judges—
Parsons I'd add too, if alas!
There yet were hope the Church could pass
The gulf now oped for hers and her,
Or long survive what *Exeter*—
Both Hall and Bishop, of that name—
Have done to sink her reverend fame.
Adieu, dear friend—you'll oft hear *from* me,
Now I'm no more a travelling drudge;
Meanwhile I sign (that you may judge
How well the surname will become me)
Yours truly,

MORTIMER O'FUDGE.

LETTER XI.

FROM PATRICK MAGAN, ESQ., TO THE REV. RICHARD ———.

———, *Ireland.*

DEAR DICK—just arriv'd at my own humble *gîte*,
I inclose you, post-haste, the account, all complete,
Just arriv'd, *per* express, of our late noble feat.

[*Extract from the* " *County Gazette.*"]

This place is getting gay and full again.
* * * * *
Last week was married, "in the Lord,"
The Reverend Mortimer O'Mulligan,
Preacher, in *Irish*, of the Word,
(He, who the Lord's force lately led on—
Exeter Hall his Ar*magh*-geddon,) [2]
To Miss B. Fudge of Pisgah Place,
One of the chos'n, as " heir of grace,"
And likewise heiress of Phil. Fudge,
Esquire, defunct, of Orange Lodge.

Same evening, Miss F. Fudge, 'tis hinted—
Niece of the above, (whose " Sylvan Lyre,"
In our Gazette, last week, we printed,)
Elop'd with Pat. Magan, Esquire.
The fugitives were track'd, some time,
After they'd left the Aunt's abode,
By scraps of paper, scrawl'd with rhyme,
Found strew'd along the Western road;—
Some of them, *ci-devant* curl-papers,
Others, half burnt in lighting tapers.
This clue, however, to their flight,
After some miles was seen no more;
And, from inquiries made last night,
We find they've reach'd the Irish shore.

Every word of it true, Dick—th' escape from Aunt's thrall—
Western road—lyric fragments—curl-papers and all.
My sole stipulation, ere link'd at the shrine
(As some balance between Fanny's *numbers* and mine),
Was that, when we were *one*, she must give up the *Nine*;
Nay, devote to the Gods her whole stock of MS.
With a vow never more against prose to transgress.
This she did, like a heroine;—smack went to bits
The whole produce sublime of her dear little wits—
Sonnets, elegies, epigrams, odes, canzonets—
Some twisted up neatly, to form *allumettes*,
Some turn'd into *papillotes*, worthy to rise
And enwreathe Berenice's bright locks in the skies!
While the rest, honest Larry (who's now in *my* pay),
Begg'd, as " lover of *po'thry*," to read on the way.

Having thus of life's *poetry* dar'd to dispose,
How we now, Dick, shall manage to get through its *prose*,
With such slender materials for *style*, Heaven knows!
But—I'm call'd off abruptly—*another* Express!
What the deuce can it mean?—I'm alarm'd, I confess.

[1] " I think I am acting in unison with the feelings of a Meeting assembled for this *solemn* object, when I call on the Rev. Doctor Holloway to open it by prayer." — *Speech of Lord Kenyon.*

[2] The Rectory which the Rev. gentleman holds is situated in the county of *Armagh!*—a most remarkable coincidence—and well worthy of the attention of certain expounders of the Apocalypse.

P. S.

Hurrah, Dick, hurrah, Dick, ten thousand hurrahs!
I'm a happy, rich dog to the end of my days.
There—read the good news—and while glad, for *my* sake,
That Wealth should thus follow in Love's shining wake,
Admire also the *moral*—that he, the sly elf,
Who has fudg'd all the world, should be now fudg'd *himself!*

EXTRACT FROM LETTER INCLOSED.

With pain the mournful news I write,
Miss Fudge's uncle died last night;
And much to mine and friends' surprise,
By will doth all his wealth devise—
Lands, dwellings—rectories likewise—
To his "belov'd grand-niece," Miss Fanny,
Leaving Miss Fudge herself, who many
Long years hath waited—not a penny!
Have notified the same to latter,
And wait instructions in the matter.
For self and partners, &c. &c.

SONGS FROM M.P.; OR, THE BLUE-STOCKING.

SONG.

SUSAN.

Young Love liv'd once in an humble shed,
Where roses breathing,
And woodbines wreathing
Around the lattice their tendrils spread,
As wild and sweet as the life he led.
His garden flourish'd,
For young Hope nourish'd
The infant buds with beams and showers;
But lips, though blooming, must still be fed,
And not even Love can live on flowers.

Alas! that Poverty's evil eye
Should e'er come hither,
Such sweets to wither!
The flowers laid down their heads to die,
And Hope fell sick as the witch drew nigh.
She came one morning,
Ere Love had warning,
And rais'd the latch, where the young god lay;
"Oh ho!" said Love—"is it you? good-by;"
So he oped the window, and flew away!

To sigh, yet feel no pain,
To weep, yet scarce know why;
To sport an hour with Beauty's chain,
Then throw it idly by.

To kneel at many a shrine,
Yet lay the heart on none;
To think all other charms divine,
But those we just have won.
This is love, faithless love,
Such as kindleth hearts that rove.

To keep one sacred flame,
Through life unchill'd, unmov'd,
To love, in wintry age, the same
As first in youth we lov'd;
To feel that we adore,
Ev'n to such fond excess,
That, though the heart would break, with *more*,
It could not live with *less*.
This is love, faithful love,
Such as saints might feel above.

Spirit of Joy, thy altar lies
In youthful hearts that hope like mine;
And 'tis the light of laughing eyes,
That leads us to thy fairy shrine.
There if we find the sigh, the tear,
They are not those to Sorrow known;
But breath so soft, and drops so clear,
That Bliss may claim them for her own.
Then give me, give me, while I weep,
The sanguine hope that brightens woe,
And teaches ev'n our tears to keep
The tinge of pleasure as they flow.

The child, who sees the dew of night
  Upon the spangled hedge at morn,
Attempts to catch the drops of light,
  But wounds his finger with the thorn.
Thus oft the brightest joys we seek,
  Are lost, when touch'd, and turn'd to pain;
The flush they kindled leaves the cheek,
  The tears they waken long remain.
    But give me, give me, &c. &c.

When Leila touch'd the lute,
  Not *then* alone 'twas felt,
But, when the sounds were mute,
  In memory still they dwelt.
Sweet lute! in nightly slumbers
Still we heard thy morning numbers.

Ah, how could she, who stole
  Such breath from simple wire,
Be led, in pride of soul,
  To string with gold her lyre?
Sweet lute! thy chords she breaketh;
Golden now the strings she waketh?

But where are all the tales
  Her lute so sweetly told?
In lofty themes she fails,
  And soft ones suit not gold.
Rich lute! we see thee glisten,
But, alas! no more we listen!

BOAT GLEE.

The song that lightens our languid way
    When brows are glowing,
  And faint with rowing,
Is like the spell of Hope's airy lay,
To whose sound through life we stray.
The beams that flash on the oar awhile,
  As we row along through waves so clear,
Illume its spray, like the fleeting smile
  That shines o'er Sorrow's tear.

Nothing is lost on him who sees
  With an eye that Feeling gave;—
For him there's a story in every breeze,
  And a picture in every wave.

Then sing to lighten the languid way;—
    When brows are glowing,
  And faint with rowing:
'Tis like the spell of Hope's airy lay,
To whose sound through life we stray.

Oh think, when a hero is sighing,
  What danger in such an adorer!
What woman could dream of denying
  The hand that lays laurels before her?
No heart is so guarded around,
  But the smile of a victor would take it;
No bosom can slumber so sound,
  But the trumpet of Glory will wake it.

Love sometimes is given to sleeping,
  And woe to the heart that allows *him*;
For soon neither smiling nor weeping
  Will e'er from such slumber arouse him.
But though he were sleeping so fast,
  That the life almost seem'd to forsake him,
Even then, one soul-thrilling blast
  From the trumpet of Glory would wake him.

CUPID'S LOTTERY.

A lottery, a Lottery,
In Cupid's Court there us'd to be;
    Two roguish eyes
    The highest prize
In Cupid's scheming Lottery;
    And kisses, too,
    As good as new,
Which weren't very hard to win,
    For he, who won
    The eyes of fun,
Was sure to have the kisses in.
      A Lottery, a Lottery, &c.

This Lottery, this Lottery,
In Cupid's Court went merrily,
    And Cupid play'd
    A Jewish trade
In this his scheming Lottery;
    For hearts, we're told,
    In *shares* he sold
To many a fond believing drone,
    And cut the hearts
    So well in parts,
That each believ'd the whole his own.

Chor.— A Lottery, a Lottery,
In Cupid's Court there us'd to be
Two roguish eyes
The highest prize
In Cupid's scheming Lottery.

SONG.[1]

Though sacred the tie that our country entwineth,
And dear to the heart her remembrance remains,
Yet dark are the ties where no liberty shineth,
And sad the remembrance that slavery stains.

Oh Liberty, born in the cot of the peasant,
But dying of languor in luxury's dome,
Our vision, when absent—our glory, when present—
Where thou art, O Liberty! there is my home.

Farewell to the land where in childhood I wander'd!
In vain is she mighty, in vain is she brave;
Unbless'd is the blood that for tyrants is squander'd,
And Fame has no wreaths for the brow of the slave.
But hail to thee, Albion! who meet'st the commotion
Of Europe, as calm as thy cliffs meet the foam;
With no bonds but the law, and no slave but the ocean,
Hail, Temple of Liberty! thou art my home.

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

AT NIGHT.[2]

At night, when all is still around,
How sweet to hear the distant sound
Of footstep, coming soft and light!
What pleasure in the anxious beat,
With which the bosom flies to meet
That foot that comes so soft at night!

And then, at night, how sweet to say
"'Tis late, my love!" and chide delay,
Though still the western clouds are bright;
Oh! happy, too, the silent press,
The eloquence of mute caress,
With those we love exchang'd at night!

TO LADY HOLLAND.

ON NAPOLEON'S LEGACY OF A SNUFF-BOX.

Gift of the Hero, on his dying day,
To her, whose pity watch'd, for ever nigh;
Oh! could he see the proud, the happy ray,
This relic lights up in her generous eye,
Sighing, he'd feel how easy 'tis to pay
A friendship all his kingdoms could not buy.

Paris, July, 1821.

[1] Sung in the character of a Frenchman.

EPILOGUE.

WRITTEN FOR LADY DACRE'S TRAGEDY OF INA.

Last night, as lonely o'er my fire I sat,
Thinking of cues, starts, exits, and—all that
And wondering much what little knavish sprite
Had put it first in women's heads to write:
Sudden I saw—as in some witching dream—
A bright-blue glory round my book-case beam,
From whose quick-opening folds of azure light
Out flew a tiny form, as small and bright
As Puck the Fairy, when he pops his head,
Some sunny morning, from a violet bed.
"Bless me!" I starting cried, "what imp are you?"—
"A small he-devil, Ma'am—my name Bas Bleu—
"A bookish sprite, much giv'n to routs and reading;
"'Tis I who teach your spinsters of good breeding,
"The reigning taste in chemistry and caps,
"The last new bounds of tuckers and of maps,
"And, when the waltz has twirl'd her giddy brain,
"With metaphysics twirl it back again!"

I view'd him, as he spoke—his hose was blue,
His wings—the covers of the last Review—
Cerulean, border'd with a jaundice hue,

[2] These lines allude to a curious lamp, which has for its device a Cupid, with the words "at night" written over him.

And tinsell'd gaily o'er for evening wear,
Till the next quarter brings a new-fledg'd pair.
" Inspir'd by me—(pursued this waggish Fairy)—
" That best of wives and Sapphos, Lady Mary,
" Votary alike of Crispin and the Muse,
" Makes her own splay-foot epigrams and shoes,
" For me the eyes of young Camilla shine,
" And mingle Love's blue brilliances with mine;
" For me she sits apart, from coxcombs shrinking,
" Looks wise—the pretty soul!—and *thinks* she's thinking.
" By my advice Miss Indigo attends
" Lectures on Memory, and assures her friends,
" 'Pon honour!—(*mimics*)—nothing can surpass the plan
" Of that professor—(*trying to recollect*)—psha! that memory-man—
" That—what's his name?—him I attended lately—
" 'Pon honour, he improv'd *my* memory greatly.'"

Here, curtseying low, I ask'd the blue-legg'd sprite,
What share he had in this our play to-night.
" Nay, there—(he cried)—there I am guiltless quite—
" What! choose a heroine from that Gothic time,
" When no one waltz'd, and none but monks could rhyme;
" When lovely woman all unschool'd and wild,
" Blush'd without art, and without culture smil'd—
" Simple as flowers, while yet unclass'd they shone,
" Ere Science call'd their brilliant world her own,
" Rang'd the wild, rosy things in learned orders,
" And fill'd with Greek the garden's blushing borders!—
" No, no—your gentle Inas will not do—
" To-morrow evening, when the lights burn blue,
" I'll come—(*pointing downwards*)—you understand—till then adieu!"

And *has* the sprite been here? No—jests apart—
Howe'er man rules in science and in art,
The sphere of woman's glories is the heart.
And, if our Muse have sketch'd with pencil true
The wife—the mother—firm, yet gentle too—
Whose soul, wrapp'd up in ties itself hath spun,
Trembles, if touch'd in the remotest one;
Who loves—yet dares even Love himself disown,
When Honour's broken shaft supports his throne·
If such our Ina, she may scorn the evils,
Dire as they are, of Critics and—Blue Devils.

THE DAY-DREAM.

THEY both were hush'd, the voice, the chords,—
I heard but once that witching lay;
And few the notes, and few the words,
My spell-bound memory brought away;

Traces remember'd here and there,
Like echoes of some broken strain;—
Links of a sweetness lost in air,
That nothing now could join again.

Ev'n these, too, ere the morning, fled;
And, though the charm still linger'd on,
That o'er each sense her song had shed,
The song itself was faded, gone;—

Gone, like the thoughts that once were ours,
On summer days, ere youth had set;
Thoughts bright, we know, as summer flowers,
Though *what* they were, we now forget.

In vain, with hints from other strains,
I woo'd this truant air to come—
As birds are taught, on eastern plains,
To lure their wilder kindred home.

In vain:—the song that Sappho gave,
In dying, to the mournful sea,
Not muter slept beneath the wave,
Than this within my memory.

At length, one morning, as I lay
In that half-waking mood, when dreams
Unwillingly at last give way
To the full truth of daylight's beams,

A face—the very face, methought,
From which had breath'd, as from a shrine
Of song and soul, the notes I sought—
Came with its music close to mine;

And sung the long-lost measure o'er,—
Each note and word, with every tone
And look, that lent it life before,—
All perfect, all again my own!

Like parted souls, when, mid the Blest
They meet again, each widow'd sound
Through memory's realm had wing'd in quest,
Of its sweet mate, till all were found.

---

[1] In these stanzas I have done little more than relate a fact in verse; and the lady, whose singing gave rise to this curious instance of the power of memory in sleep, is Mrs. Robert Arkwright.

Nor even in waking did the clue,
Thus strangely caught, escape again ;
For never lark its matins knew
So well as now I knew this strain.

And oft, when memory's wondrous spell
Is talk'd of in our tranquil bower,
I sing this lady's song, and tell
The vision of that morning hour.

SONG.

WHERE is the heart that would not give
Years of drowsy days and nights,
One little hour, like this, to live—
Full, to the brim, of life's delights ?
Look, look around
This fairy ground,
With love-lights glittering o'er ;
While cups that shine
With freight divine
Go coasting round its shore.

Hope is the dupe of future hours,
Memory lives in those gone by ;
Neither can see the moment's flowers
Springing up fresh beneath the eye.
Wouldst thou, or thou,
Forego what's *now*,
For all that Hope may say ?
No—Joy's reply,
From every eye,
Is, "Live we while we may."

SONG OF THE POCO-CURANTE SOCIETY.

Haud curat Hippoclides.
ERASM. *Adag.*

To those we love we've drank to-night ;
But now attend, and stare not,
While I the ampler list recite
Of those for whom WE CARE NOT.

For royal men, howe'er they frown,
If on their fronts they bear not
That noblest gem that decks a crown,
The People's Love—WE CARE NOT.

For slavish men, who bend beneath
A despot yoke, yet dare not
Pronounce the will, whose very breath
Would rend its links—WE CARE NOT.

For priestly men, who covet sway
And wealth, though they declare not ;
Who point, like finger-posts, the way
They never go—WE CARE NOT.

For martial men, who on their sword,
Howe'er it conquers, wear not
The pledges of a soldier's word,
Redeem'd and pure—WE CARE NOT.

For legal men, who plead for wrong,
And, though to lies they swear not,
Are hardly better than the throng
Of those who *do*—WE CARE NOT.

For courtly men, who feed upon
The land, like grubs, and spare not
The smallest leaf, where they can sun
Their crawling limbs—WE CARE NOT.

For wealthy men, who keep their mines
In darkness hid, and share not
The paltry ore with him who pines
In honest want—WE CARE NOT.

For prudent men, who hold the power
Of Love aloof, and bare not
Their hearts in any guardless hour
To Beauty's shaft—WE CARE NOT.

For all, in short, on land or sea,
In camp or court, who *are* not,
Who never *were*, or e'er *will* be
Good men and true—WE CARE NOT.

ANNE BOLEYN.

TRANSLATION FROM THE METRICAL "HISTOIRE D'ANNE BOLEYN."

S'elle estoit belle et de taille élégante,
Estoit des yeulx encor plus attirante,
Lesquelz sçavoit bien conduyre à propos
En les tenant quelquefoys en repos ;
Aucunefoys envoyant en message
Porter du cueur le secret tesmoignage.

MUCH as her form seduc'd the sight,
Her eyes could even more surely woo ;
And when and how to shoot their light
Into men's hearts full well she knew.

For sometimes, in repose, she hid
Their rays beneath a downcast lid;
And then again, with wakening air,
Would send their sunny glances out,
Like heralds of delight, to bear
Her heart's sweet messages about.

THE DREAM OF THE TWO SISTERS.

FROM DANTE.

Nell ora, credo, che dell' oriente
Prima raggiò nel monte Citerea,
Che di fuoco d' amor par sempre ardente,
Giovane e bella in sogno mi parea
Donna vedere andar per una landa
Cogliendo fiori; e cantando dicea:—

Sappia qualunque 'l mio nome dimanda,
Ch' io mi son Lia, e vo movendo 'ntorno
Le belle mani a farmi una ghirlanda—
Per piacermi allo specchio qui m' adorno;
Ma mia suora Rachel mai non si smaga
Dal suo ammiraglio, e siede tutto il giorno.

Ell' è de' suoi begli occhi veder vaga,
Com' io dell' adornarmi con le mani;
Lei lo vedere e me l'ovrare appaga.

DANTE, *Purg.* canto xxvii.

'Twas eve's soft hour, and bright, above,
The star of Beauty beam'd,
While lull'd by light so full of love,
In slumber thus I dream'd—
Methought, at that sweet hour,
A nymph came o'er the lea,
Who, gath'ring many a flow'r,
Thus said and sung to me:—
"Should any ask what Leila loves,
"Say thou, To wreathe her hair
"With flow'rets cull'd from glens and groves,
"Is Leila's only care.

"While thus in quest of flow'rets rare,
"O'er hill and dale I roam,
"My sister, Rachel, far more fair,
"Sits lone and mute at home.
"Before her glass untiring,
"With thoughts that never stray,
"Her own bright eyes admiring,
"She sits the live-long day;
"While I!—oh, seldom even a look
"Of self salutes my eye;—
"My only glass, the limpid brook,
"That shines and passes by."

SOVEREIGN WOMAN.

A BALLAD.

The dance was o'er, yet still in dreams
That fairy scene went on;
Like clouds still flush'd with daylight gleams,
Though day itself is gone.
And gracefully, to music's sound,
The same bright nymphs went gliding round;
While thou, the Queen of all, wert there—
The Fairest still, where all were fair.

The dream then chang'd—in halls of state,
I saw thee high enthron'd;
While, rang'd around, the wise, the great
In thee their mistress own'd:
And still the same, thy gentle sway
O'er willing subjects won its way—
'Till all confess'd the Right Divine
To rule o'er man was only thine!

But, lo, the scene now chang'd again—
And borne on plumed steed,
I saw thee o'er the battle-plain
Our land's defenders lead;
And stronger in thy beauty's charms,
Than man, with countless hosts in arms,
Thy voice, like music, cheer'd the Free,
Thy very smile was victory!

Nor reign such queens on thrones alone—
In cot and court the same,
Wherever woman's smile is known,
Victoria's still her name.
For though she almost blush to reign,
Though Love's own flow'rets wreath the chain,
Disguise our bondage as we will,
'Tis woman, woman, rules us still.

COME, PLAY ME THAT SIMPLE AIR AGAIN.

A BALLAD.

Come, play me that simple air again,
I us'd so to love, in life's young day,
And bring, if thou canst, the dreams that then
Were waken'd by that sweet lay.
The tender gloom its strain
Shed o'er the heart and brow,
Grief's shadow, without its pain—
Say where, where is it now?

But play me the well-known air once more,
For thoughts of youth still haunt its strain,
Like dreams of some far, fairy shore
We never shall see again.

Sweet air, how every note brings back
Some sunny hope, some day-dream bright,
That, shining o'er life's early track,
Fill'd ev'n its tears with light.

The new-found life that came
With love's first echo'd vow;—
The fear, the bliss, the shame—
Ah—where, where are they now?
But, still the same lov'd notes prolong,
For sweet 'twere thus, to that old lay,
In dreams of youth and love and song,
To breathe life's hour away.

THE EPICUREAN.

A TALE.

TO

LORD JOHN RUSSELL,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED,

BY ONE WHO ADMIRES HIS CHARACTER AND TALENTS, AND IS PROUD OF HIS FRIENDSHIP.

A LETTER TO THE TRANSLATOR,

FROM

——, Esq.

Cairo, June 19. 1800.

My dear Sir,

During a visit lately paid by me to the monastery of St. Macarius—which is situated, as you know, in the Valley of the Lakes of Natron—I was lucky enough to obtain possession of a curious Greek manuscript which, in the hope that you may be induced to translate it, I herewith transmit to you. Observing one of the monks very busily occupied in tearing up into a variety of fantastic shapes some papers which had the appearance of being the leaves of old books, I inquired of him the meaning of his task, and received the following explanation:—

The Arabs, it seems, who are as fond of pigeons as the ancient Egyptians, have a superstitious notion that, if they place in their pigeon-houses small scraps of paper, written over with learned characters, the birds are always sure to thrive the better for the charm; and the monks, who are never slow in profiting by superstition, have, at all times, a supply of such amulets for purchasers.

In general, the fathers of the monastery have been in the habit of scribbling these fragments themselves; but a discovery lately made by them, saves all this trouble. Having dug up (as my informant stated) a chest of old manuscripts, which, being chiefly on the subject of alchemy, must have been buried in the time of Dioclesian, "we thought," added the monk, "that we could not employ such rubbish more properly, than in tearing it up, as you see, for the pigeon-houses of the Arabs."

On my expressing a wish to rescue some part of these treasures from the fate to which his indolent fraternity had consigned them, he produced the manuscript which I have now the pleasure of sending you—the only one, he said, remaining entire—and I very readily paid the price which he demanded for it.

You will find the story, I think, not altogether uninteresting; and the coincidence, in many respects, of the curious details in Chap. VI. with the description of the same ceremonies in the

Romance of *Sethos*[1], will, I have no doubt, strike you. Hoping that you may be induced to give a translation of this Tale to the world,

I am, my dear Sir,
Very truly yours,

THE EPICUREAN.

CHAPTER I.

It was in the fourth year of the reign of the late Emperor Valerian, that the followers of Epicurus, who were at that time numerous in Athens, proceeded to the election of a person to fill the vacant Chair of their sect;—and, by the unanimous voice of the School, I was the individual chosen for their Chief. I was just then entering on my twenty-fourth year, and no instance had ever before occurred, of a person so young being selected for that high office. Youth, however, and the personal advantages that adorn it, could not but rank among the most agreeable recommendations to a sect that included within its circle all the beauty as well as the wit of Athens, and which, though dignifying its pursuits with the name of philosophy, was little else than a plausible pretext for the more refined cultivation of pleasure.

The character of the sect had, indeed, much changed since the time of its wise and virtuous founder, who, while he asserted that Pleasure is the only Good, inculcated also that Good is the only source of Pleasure. The purer part of this doctrine had long evaporated, and the temperate Epicurus would have as little recognised his own sect in the assemblage of refined voluptuaries who now usurped its name, as he would have known his own quiet Garden in the luxurious groves and bowers among which the meetings of the School were now held.

Many causes concurred, at this period, besides the attractiveness of its doctrines, to render our school by far the most popular of any that still survived the glory of Greece. It may generally be observed, that the prevalence, in one half of a community, of very rigid notions on the subject of religion, produces the opposite extreme of laxity and infidelity in the other; and this kind of reaction it was that now mainly contributed to render the doctrines of the Garden the most fashionable philosophy of the day. The rapid progress of the Christian faith had alarmed all those, who, either from piety or worldliness, were interested in the continuance of the old established creed—all who believed in the Deities of Olympus, and all who lived by them. The natural consequence was, a considerable increase of zeal and activity, throughout the constituted authorities and priesthood of the whole Heathen world. What was wanting in sincerity of belief was made up in rigour;—the weakest parts of the Mythology were those, of course, most angrily defended, and any reflections, tending to bring Saturn, or his wife Ops, into contempt, were punished with the utmost severity of the law.

In this state of affairs, between the alarmed bigotry of the declining Faith and the simple, sublime austerity of her rival, it was not wonderful that those lovers of ease and pleasure, who had no interest, reversionary orother wise, in the old religion, and were too indolent to inquire into the sanctions of the new, should take refuge from the severities of both in the arms of a luxurious philosophy, which, leaving to others the task of disputing about the future, centred all its wisdom in the full enjoyment of the present.

The sectaries of the Garden had, ever since the death of their founder, been accustomed to dedicate to his memory the twentieth day of every month. To these monthly rites had, for some time, been added a grand annual Festival, in commemoration of his birth. The feasts given on this occasion by my predecessors in the Chair, had been invariably distinguished for their taste and splendour; and it was my ambition, not merely to imitate this example, but even to render the anniversary, now celebrated under my auspices, so lively and brilliant as to efface the recollection of all that had preceded it.

Seldom, indeed, had Athens witnessed so bright a scene. The grounds that formed the original site of the Garden had received, from time to time, considerable additions; and the whole extent was now laid out with that perfect taste, which understands how to wed Nature with Art, *without* sacrificing any of her simplicity to the alliance. Walks, leading through wildernesses of shade and fragrance—glades, opening, as if to afford a playground for the sunshine—temples, rising on the

[1] The description, here alluded to, may also be found, copied *verbatim* from Sethos, in the "Voyages d'Antênor."—"In that philosophical romance, called 'La Vie de Sethos,'" says Warburton, "we find a much juster account of old Egyptian wisdom, than in all the pretended 'Histoire du Ciel.'"—*Div. Leg.* book iv. sect. 14.

very spots where Imagination herself would have called them up, and fountains and lakes, in alternate motion and repose, either wantonly courting the verdure, or calmly sleeping in its embrace — such was the variety of feature that diversified these fair gardens; and, animated as they were on this occasion, by all the living wit and loveliness of Athens, it afforded a scene such as my own youthful fancy, rich as it was then in images of luxury and beauty, could hardly have anticipated.

The ceremonies of the day began with the very dawn, when, according to the form of simpler and better times, those among the disciples who had apartments within the Garden, bore the image of our Founder in procession from chamber to chamber, chanting verses in praise of what had long ceased to be objects of our imitation — his frugality and temperance.

Round a beautiful lake, in the centre of the Garden, stood four white Doric temples, in one of which was collected a library containing all the flowers of Grecian literature; while, in the remaining three, Conversation, the Song, and the Dance, held, uninterrupted by each other, their respective rites. In the Library stood busts of all the most illustrious Epicureans, both of Rome and Greece — Horace, Atticus, Pliny the elder, the poet Lucretius, Lucian, and the lamented biographer of the Philosophers, lately lost to us, Diogenes Laertius. There were also the portraits, in marble, of all the eminent female votaries of the school — Leontium and her fair daughter Danaë, Themista, Philænis, and others.

It was here that, in my capacity of Heresiarch, on the morning of the Festival, I received the felicitations of the day from some of the fairest lips of Athens; and, in pronouncing the customary oration to the memory of our Master (in which it was usual to dwell upon the doctrines he had inculcated), endeavoured to attain that art, so useful before such an audience, of lending to the gravest subjects a charm, which secures them listeners even among the simplest and most volatile.

Though study, as may be supposed, engrossed but little the nights or mornings of the Garden, yet all the lighter parts of learning — that portion of its attic honey, for which the bee is not compelled to go very deep into the flower — was somewhat zealously cultivated by us. Even here, however, the young student had to encounter that kind of distraction, which is, of all others, the least favourable to composure of thought; and, with more than one of my fair disciples, there used to occur such scenes as the following, which a poet of the Garden, taking his picture from the life, thus described: —

"As o'er the lake, in evening's glow,
That temple threw its lengthening shade,
Upon the marble steps below
There sate a fair Corinthian maid,
Gracefully o'er some volume bending;
While, by her side, the youthful Sage
Held back her ringlets, lest, descending,
They should o'er-shadow all the page."

But it was for the evening of that day, that the richest of our luxuries were reserved. Every part of the Garden was illuminated, with the most skilful variety of lustre; while over the Lake of the Temples were scatter'd wreaths of flowers, through which boats, fill'd with beautiful children, floated, as through a liquid parterre.

Between two of these boats a mock combat was perpetually carried on; — their respective commanders, two blooming youths, being habited to represent Eros and Anteros: the former, the Celestial Love of the Platonists, and the latter, that more earthly spirit, which usurps the name of Love among the Epicureans. Throughout the whole evening their conflict was maintain'd with various success; the timid distance at which Eros kept aloof from his lively antagonist being his only safeguard against those darts of fire, with showers of which the other assailed him, but which, falling short of their mark upon the lake, only scorched the few flowers on which they fell, and were extinguished.

In another part of the gardens, on a wide glade, illuminated only by the moon, was performed an imitation of the torch-race of the Panathenæa by young boys chosen for their fleetness, and arrayed with wings, like Cupids; while, not far off, a group of seven nymphs, with each a star on her forehead, represented the movements of the planetary choir, and embodied the dream of Pythagoras into real motion and song.

At every turning some new enchantment broke unexpectedly on the eye or ear; and now, from the depth of a dark grove, from which a fountain at the same time issued, there came a strain of sweet music, which, mingling with the murmur of the water, seemed like the voice of the spirit that presided over its flow; — while, at other times, the same strain appeared to come breathing from among flowers, or was heard suddenly from under ground, as if the foot had just touched some spring that set its melody in motion.

It may seem strange that I should now dwell upon all these trifling details; but they were to me full of the future; and every thing connected with that memorable night — even its long repented follies — must for ever live fondly and sacredly in my memory. The festival concluded with a banquet, at which, as master of the Sect, I presided;

and being, myself, in every sense, the ascendant spirit of the whole scene, gave life to all around me, and saw my own happiness reflected in that of others.

CHAPTER II.

THE festival was over;—the sounds of the song and dance had ceased, and I was now left in those luxurious gardens, alone. Though so ardent and active a votary of pleasure, I had, by nature, a disposition full of melancholy;—an imagination that, even in the midst of mirth and happiness, presented saddening thoughts, and threw the shadow of the future over the gayest illusions of the present. Melancholy was, indeed, twin-born in my soul with Passion; and not even in the fullest fervour of the latter were they ever separated. From the first moment that I was conscious of thought and feeling, the same dark thread had run across the web; and images of death and annihilation came to mingle themselves with even the most smiling scenes through which love and enjoyment led me. My very passion for pleasure but deepened these gloomy thoughts. For, shut out, as I was by my creed, from a future life, and having no hope beyond the narrow horizon of this, every minute of earthly delight assumed, in my eyes, a mournful preciousness; and pleasure, like the flower of the cemetery, grew but more luxuriant from the neighbourhood of death.

This very night my triumph, my happiness, had seemed complete. I had been the presiding genius of that voluptuous scene. Both my ambition and my love of pleasure had drunk deep of the rich cup for which they thirsted. Looked up to as I was by the learned, and admired and loved by the beautiful and the young, I had seen, in every eye that met mine, either the acknowledgment of bright triumphs already won, or the promise of others, still brighter, that awaited me. Yet, even in the midst of all this, the same dark thoughts had presented themselves;—the perishableness of myself and all around me had recurred every instant to my mind. Those hands I had prest—those eyes, in which I had seen sparkling a spirit of light and life that ought never to die—those voices, that had spoken of eternal love—all, all I felt, were but a mockery of the moment, and would leave nothing eternal but the silence of their dust!

> Oh, were it not for this sad voice,
> Stealing amid our mirth to say,
> That all, in which we most rejoice,
> Ere *night* may be the earth-worm's prey;—
> *But* for this bitter—only this—
> Full as the world is brimm'd with bliss,
> And capable as feels my soul
> Of draining to its depth the whole,
> I should turn earth to heaven, and be,
> If bliss made gods, a deity!

Such was the description I gave of my own feelings in one of those wild, passionate songs, to which this mixture of mirth and melancholy, in a spirit so buoyant, naturally gave birth.

And seldom had my heart so fully surrendered itself to this sort of vague sadness as at that very moment, when, as I paced thoughtfully among the fading lights and flowers of the banquet, the echo of my own step was all that now sounded, where so many gay forms had lately been revelling. The moon was still up, the morning had not yet glimmered, and the calm glories of the night still rested on all around. Unconscious whither my pathway led, I continued to wander along, till I, at length, found myself before that fair statue of Venus, with which the chisel of Alcamenes had embellished our Garden;—that image of deified woman, the only idol to which I had ever yet bent the knee. Leaning against the pedestal of the statue, I raised my eyes to heaven, and fixing them sadly and intently on the ever-burning stars, as if seeking to read the mournful secret in their light, asked, wherefore was it that Man alone must fade and perish, while they, so much less wonderful, less godlike than he, thus still lived on in radiance unchangeable and for ever! "Oh, that there were some spell, some talisman," I exclaimed, "to make the spirit that burns within us deathless as those stars, and open to it a career like theirs, as bright and inextinguishable throughout all time!"

While thus indulging in wild and melancholy fancies, I felt that lassitude which earthly pleasure, however sweet, still leaves behind, come insensibly over me, and at length sunk at the base of the statue to sleep.

But even in sleep, the same fancies continued to haunt me; and a dream[1], so distinct and vivid as to leave behind it the impression of reality, thus presented itself to my mind. I found myself suddenly transported to a wide and desolate plain, where nothing appeared to breathe, or move, or live. The very sky that hung above it looked pale and extinct, giving the idea, not of darkness, but of light that had become dead;—and had that whole region been the remains of some older world, left broken up and sunless, it could not have presented an aspect more quenched and desolate. The only think that bespoke life, throughout this

[1] For the importance attached to dreams by the ancients, see *Jortin*, Remarks on Ecclesiastical History, vol. i. p. 90.

melancholy waste, was a small spark of light, that at first glimmered in the distance, but, at length, slowly approached the bleak spot where I stood. As it drew nearer, I could see that its small but steady gleam came from a taper in the hand of an ancient and venerable man, who now stood, like a pale mesenger from the grave, before me. After a few moments of awful silence, during which he looked at me with a sadness that thrilled my very soul, he said, "Thou, who seekest eternal life, go unto the shores of the dark Nile — go unto the shores of the dark Nile, and thou wilt find the eternal life thou seekest!"

No sooner had he uttered these words than the deathlike hue of his cheek at once brightened into a smile of more than earthly promise; while the small torch he held in his hand sent forth a glow of radiance, by which suddenly the whole surface of the desert was illuminated; — the light spreading even to the distant horizon's edge, along whose line I could now see gardens, palaces, and spires, all as bright as the rich architecture of the clouds at sunset. Sweet music, too, came floating in every direction through the air, and, from all sides, such varieties of enchantment broke upon me, that, with the excess alike of harmony and of radiance, I awoke.

That infidels should be superstitious is an anomaly neither unusual nor strange. A belief in superhuman agency seems natural and necessary to the mind; and, if not suffered to flow in the obvious channels, it will find a vent in some other. Hence, many who have doubted the existence of a God, have yet implicitly placed themselves under the patronage of Fate or the stars. Much the same inconsistency I was conscious of in my own feelings. Though rejecting all belief in a Divine Providence, I had yet a faith in dreams, that all my philosophy could not conquer. Nor was experience wanting to confirm me in my delusion; for, by some of those accidental coincidences, which make the fortune of soothsayers and prophets, dreams, more than once, had been to me

> Oracles, truer far than oak,
> Or dove, or tripod, ever spoke.

It was not wonderful, therefore, that the vision of that night — touching, as it did, a chord so ready to vibrate — should have affected me with more than ordinary power, and even sunk deeper into my memory with every effort I made to forget it. In vain did I mock at my own weakness; — such self-derision is seldom sincere. In vain did I pursue my accustomed pleasures. Their zest was, as usual, for ever new; but still, in the midst of all my enjoyment, came the cold and saddening consciousness of mortality, and, with it, the recollection of that visionary promise, to which my fancy, in defiance of reason, still continued to cling.

At times indulging in reveries, that were little else than a continuation of my dream, I even contemplated the possible existence of some mighty secret, by which youth, if not perpetuated, might be at least prolonged, and that dreadful vicinity of death, within whose circle love pines and pleasure sickens, might be for a while averted. "Who knows," I would ask, "but that in Egypt, that region of wonders, where Mystery hath yet unfolded but half her treasures — where still remain, undeciphered, upon the pillars of Seth, so many written secrets of the antediluvian world — who can tell but that some powerful charm, some amulet, may there lie hid, whose discovery, as this phantom hath promised, but awaits my coming — some compound of the same pure atoms, that form the essence of the living stars, and whose infusion into the frame of man might render him also unfading and immortal!"

Thus fondly did I sometimes speculate, in those vague moods of mind, when the life of excitement in which I was engaged, acting upon a warm heart and vivid fancy, produced an intoxication of spirit, during which I was not wholly myself. This bewilderment, too, was not a little increased by the constant struggle I experienced between my own natural feelings, and the cold, mortal creed of my sect — in endeavouring to escape from whose deadening bondage I but broke loose into the realms of fantasy and romance.

Even in my soberest moments, however, that strange vision for ever haunted me; and every effort I made to chase it from my recollection was unavailing. The deliberate conclusion, therefore, to which I at last came, was, that to visit Egypt was now my only resource; that, without seeing that land of wonders, I could not rest, nor, until convinced of my folly by disappointment, be reasonable. Without delay, accordingly, I announced to my friends of the Garden, the intention I had formed to pay a visit to the land of Pyramids. To none of them, however, did I dare to confess the vague, visionary impulse that actuated me; — knowledge being the object that I alleged, while Pleasure was that for which they gave me credit. The interests of the School, it was feared, might suffer by my absence; and there were some tenderer ties, which had still more to fear from separation. But for the former inconvenience a temporary remedy was provided; while the latter a skilful distribution of vows and sighs alleviated. Being furnished with recommendatory letters to

all parts of Egypt, I set sail in the summer of the year 257, A. D., for Alexandria.

CHAPTER III.

To one, who so well knew how to extract pleasure from every moment on land, a sea-voyage, however smooth and favourable, appeared the least agreeable mode of losing time that could be devised. Often, indeed, did my imagination, in passing some isle of those seas, people it with fair forms and loving hearts, to which most willingly would I have paused to offer homage. But the wind blew direct towards the land of Mystery; and, still more, I heard a voice within me, whispering for ever, "On."

As we approached the coast of Egypt, our course became less prosperous; and we had a specimen of the benevolence of the divinities of the Nile, in the shape of a storm, or rather whirlwind, which had nearly sunk our vessel, and which the Egyptians on board declared to be the work of their deity, Typhon. After a day and night of danger, during which we were driven out of our course to the eastward, some benigner influence prevailed above; and, at length, as the morning freshly broke, we saw the beautiful city of Alexandria rising from the sea, with its proud Palace of Kings, its portico of four hundred columns, and the fair Pillar of Pillars [1], towering in the midst to heaven.

After passing in review this splendid vision, we shot rapidly round the Rock of Pharos, and, in a few minutes, found ourselves in the harbour of Eunostus. The sun had risen, but the light on the Great Tower of the Rock was still burning; and there was a languor in the first waking movements of that voluptuous city — whose houses and temples lay shining in silence around the harbour — that sufficiently attested the festivities of the preceding night.

We were soon landed on the quay; and, as I walked, through a line of palaces and shrines, up the street which leads from the sea to the Gate of Canopus, fresh as I was from the contemplation of my own lovely Athens, I yet felt a glow of admiration at the scene around me, which its novelty, even more than its magnificence, inspired. Nor were the luxuries and delights, which such a city promised, among the least of the considerations upon which my fancy dwelt. On the contrary, every thing around me seemed prophetic of love and pleasure. The very forms of the architecture, to my Epicurean imagination, appeared to call up images of living grace; and even the dim seclusion of the temples and groves spoke only of tender mysteries to my mind. As the whole bright scene grew animated around me, I felt that though Egypt might not enable me to lengthen life, she could teach the next best art — that of multiplying its enjoyments.

The population of Alexandria [2], at this period, consisted of the most motley miscellany of nations, religions, and sects, that had ever been brought together in one city. Besides the school of the Grecian Platonist was seen the oratory of the cabalistic Jew; while the church of the Christian stood, undisturbed, over the crypts of the Egyptian Hierophant. Here, the adorer of Fire, from the East, laughed at the less elegant superstition of the worshipper of cats, from the West. Here Christianity, too, had learned to emulate the pious vagaries of Paganism; and while, on one side, her Ophite professor was seen bending his knee gravely before a serpent, on the other, a Nicosian Christian was heard contending, with no less gravity, that there could be no chance whatever of salvation out of the pale of the Greek alphabet. Still worse, the uncharitableness of Christian schism was already, with equal vigour, distinguishing itself; and I heard every where, on my arrival, of the fierce rancour and hate, with which the Greek and Latin churchmen were then persecuting each other, because, forsooth, the one fasted on the seventh day of the week, and the others fasted upon the fourth and sixth!

To none, however, of these different creeds and sects, except in as far as they furnished food for ridicule, had I time to pay much attention. I was now in the most luxurious city of the universe, and accordingly gave way, without reserve, to the various seductions that surrounded me. My reputation, both as a philosopher and a man of pleasure, had preceded my coming; and Alexandria, the second Athens of the world, welcomed me as her own. I found my celebrity, indeed, act as a talisman, that opened all hearts and doors at my approach. The usual novitiate of acquaintance was dispensed with in my favour, and not only inti-

[1] More properly, perhaps, "the Column of the Pillars." Vide *Abdallatif*, Relation de l'Egypte, and the notes of *M. de Sacy*. The great portico round this column (formerly designated Pompey's, but now known to have been erected in honour of Dioclesian) was still standing, M. de Sacy says, in the time of Saladin. Vide *Lord Valentia's Travels*.

[2] Ammianus thus speaks of the state of Alexandria in his time, which was, I believe, as late as the end of the fourth century: — "Ne nunc quidem in eadem urbe Doctrinæ variæ silent, non apud nos exaruit Musica nec Harmonia conticuit." Lib. 22.

macies, but loves and friendships, ripened as rapidly in my path, as vegetation springs up where the Nile has flowed. The dark beauty of the Egyptian women [1] possessed a novelty in my eyes that enhanced its other charms; and the hue left by the sun on their rounded cheeks seemed but an earnest of the genial ardour he must have kindled in their hearts —

> The' imbrowning of the fruit, that tells,
> How rich within the soul of sweetness dwells.

Some weeks had now passed in such constant and ever-changing pleasures, that even the melancholy voice deep within my heart, though it still spoke, was but seldom listened to, and soon died away in the sound of the siren songs that surrounded me. At length, as the novelty of these gay scenes wore off, the same vague and gloomy bodings began to mingle with all my joys; and an incident that occurred, at this time, during one of my gayest revels, conduced still more to deepen their gloom.

The celebration of the annual festival of Serapis happened to take place during my stay, and I was, more than once, induced to mingle with the gay multitudes that flocked to the shrine at Canopus on the occasion. Day and night, as long as this festival lasted, the great canal, which led from Alexandria to Canopus, was covered with boats full of pilgrims of both sexes, all hastening to avail themselves of this pious licence, which lent the zest of a religious sanction to pleasure, and gave a holyday to the follies and passions of earth, in honour of heaven.

I was returning, one lovely night, to Alexandria. The north wind, that welcome visiter, had cooled and freshened the air, while the banks, on either side of the stream, sent forth, from groves of orange and henna, the most delicious odours. As I had left all the crowd behind me at Canopus, there was not a boat to be seen on the canal but my own; and I was just yielding to the thoughts which solitude at such an hour inspires, when my reveries were suddenly broken by the sound of some female voices, coming mingled with laughter and screams, from the garden of a pavilion, that stood, brilliantly illuminated, upon the bank of the canal.

On rowing nearer, I perceived that both the mirth and the alarm had been caused by the efforts of some playful girls to reach a hedge of jasmine which grew near the water, and in bending towards which they had nearly fallen into the stream. Hastening to proffer my assistance, I soon recognised the voice of one of my fair Alexandrian friends; and, springing on the bank, was surrounded by the whole group, who insisted on my joining their party in the pavilion: and, having flung around me, as fetters, the tendrils of jasmine, which they had just plucked, conducted me, no unwilling captive, to the banquet-room.

I found here an assemblage of the very flower of Alexandrian society. The unexpectedness of the meeting added new zest to it on both sides; and seldom had I ever felt more enlivened myself, or succeeded better in infusing life and gaiety into others.

Among the company were some Greek women, who, according to the fashion of their country, wore veils; but, as usual, rather to set off than to conceal their beauty, some bright gleams of which were constantly escaping from under the cloud. There was, however, one female, who particularly

[1] From the character of the features of the Sphinx, and a passage in Herodotus, describing the Egyptians as μελαγχροες και ουλοτριχες, Volney, Bruce, and a few others, have concluded that the ancient inhabitants of Egypt were negroes. But this opinion is contradicted by a host of authorities. See *Castera*'s notes upon *Browne's Travels*, for the result of Blumenbach's dissection of a variety of mummies. Denon, speaking of the character of the heads represented in the ancient sculpture and painting of Egypt, says, "Celle des femmes ressemble encore à la figure des jolies femmes d'aujourd'hui: de la rondeur, de la volupté, le nez petit, les yeux longs, peu ouverts," &c. &c. He could judge, too, he says, from the female mummies, "que leurs cheveux étoient longs et lisses, que le caractère de tête de la plupart tenoit du beau style." — "Je rapportai," he adds, "une tête de vieille femme qui étoit aussi belle que celles de Michel-Ange, et leur ressembloit beaucoup."

In a "*Description générale de Thèbes*, by *Messrs. Jollois et Desvilliers*, they say, "Toutes les sculptures Egyptiennes, depuis les plus grands colosses de Thèbes jusqu'aux plus petites idoles, ne rappelent en aucune manière les traits de la figure des nègres; outre que les têtes des momies des catacombes de Thèbes présentent des profils droits." (See also *M. Jomard*'s "Description of Syene and the Cataracts," *Baron Larrey*, on the "conformation physique" of the Egyptians, &c.) But the most satisfactory refutation of the opinion of Volney has been afforded within these few years, by *Doctor Granville*, who, having been lucky enough to obtain possession of a perfect female mummy, has, by the dissection and admeasurement of its form, completely established the fact, that the ancient Egyptians were of the Caucasian race, not of the Ethiopian. See this gentleman's curious "*Essay on Egyptian Mummies*," read before the Royal Society, April 14. 1825.

De Pauw, the great depreciator of every thing Egyptian, has, on the authority of a passage in Ælian, presumed to affix to the countrywomen of Cleopatra the stigma of complete and unredeemed ugliness. The following line of Euripides, however, is an answer to such charges: —

Νειλου μεν αιδε καλλιπαρθενοι ροαι.

In addition to the celebrated instances of Cleopatra, Rhodope, &c. we are told, on the authority of Manetho (as given by Syncella from Georgius Syncellus), of a beautiful queen of Memphis, Nitocris, of the sixth dynasty, who, in addition to other charms and perfections, was (rather inconsistently with the negro hypothesis) ξανθη την χροιαν, *i.e.* yellow-haired.

See for a tribute to the beauty of the Egyptian women, Montesquieu's Temple de Gnide.

attracted my attention, on whose head was a chaplet of dark-coloured flowers, and who sat veiled and silent during the whole of the banquet. She took no share, I observed, in what was passing around: the viands and the wine went by her untouched, nor did a word that was spoken seem addressed to her ear. This abstraction from a scene so sparkling with gaiety, though apparently unnoticed by any one but myself, struck me as mysterious and strange. I inquired of my fair neighbour the cause of it, but she looked grave, and was silent.

In the mean time, the lyre and the cup went round; and a young maid from Athens, as if inspired by the presence of her countryman, took her lute, and sung to it some of the songs of Greece, with a warmth of feeling that bore me back to the banks of the Ilissus, and, even in the bosom of present pleasure, drew a sigh from my heart for that which had passed away. It was daybreak ere our delighted party rose, and most unwillingly re-embarked to return to the city.

We were scarce afloat, when it was discovered that the lute of the young Athenian had been left behind; and, with a heart still full of its sweet sounds, I most readily sprang on shore to seek it. I hastened at once to the banquet-room, which was now dim and solitary, except that—there, to my utter astonishment, was still seated that silent figure, which had awakened so much my curiosity during the evening. A vague feeling of awe came over me, as I now slowly approached it. There was no motion, no sound of breathing in that form;—not a leaf of the dark chaplet upon its brow stirred. By the light of a dying lamp which stood on the table before the figure, I rais'd, with a hesitating hand, the veil; and saw—what my fancy had already anticipated—that the shape underneath was lifeless, was a skeleton! Startled and shocked, I hurried back with the lute to the boat, and was almost as silent as that shape itself during the remainder of the voyage.

This custom among the Egyptians of placing a mummy, or skeleton, at the banquet-table, had been for some time disused, except at particular ceremonies; and, even on such occasions, it had been the practice of the luxurious Alexandrians to disguise this memorial of mortality in the manner just described. But to me, who was wholly unprepared for such a spectacle, it gave a shock from which my imagination did not speedily recover. This silent and ghastly witness of mirth seemed to embody, as it were, the shadow in my own heart. The features of the grave were thus stamped upon the idea that had long haunted me, and this picture of what I was *to be* now associated itself constantly with the sunniest aspect of what I *was*.

The memory of the dream now recurred to me more livelily than ever. The bright, assuring smile of that venerable Spirit, and his words, "Go to the shores of the dark Nile, and thou wilt find the eternal life thou seekest," were for ever present to my mind. But as yet, alas, I had done nothing towards realising the proud promise. Alexandria was not Egypt;—the very soil on which it now stood was not in existence, when already Thebes and Memphis had numbered ages of glory.

"No," I exclaimed; "it is only beneath the Pyramids of Memphis, or in the mystic Halls of the Labyrinth, those holy arcana are to be found, of which the antediluvian world has made Egypt its heir, and among which—blest thought!—the key to eternal life may lie."

Having formed my determination, I took leave of my many Alexandrian friends, and departed for Memphis.

CHAPTER IV.

Egypt was, perhaps, of all others, the country most calculated, from that mixture of the melancholy and the voluptuous, which marked the character of her people, her religion, and her scenery, to affect deeply a fancy and temperament like mine, and keep both for ever tremblingly alive. Wherever I turned, I beheld the desert and the garden, mingling together their desolation and bloom. I saw the love-bower and the tomb standing side by side, as if, in that land, Pleasure and Death kept hourly watch upon each other. In the very luxury of the climate there was the same saddening influence. The monotonous splendour of the days, the solemn radiance of the nights—all tended to cherish that ardent melancholy, the offspring of passion and of thought, which had been so long the familiar inmate of my soul.

When I sailed from Alexandria, the inundation of the Nile was at its full. The whole valley of Egypt lay covered by its blood; and, as, looking around me, I saw in the light of the setting sun, shrines, palaces, and monuments, encircled by the waters, I could almost fancy that I beheld the sinking island of Atalantis, on the last evening its temples were visible above the wave. Such varieties, too, of animation as presented themselves on every side!—

> While, far as sight could reach, beneath as clear
> And blue a heaven as ever bless'd this sphere,

Gardens, and pillar'd streets, and porphyry domes,
And high-built temples, fit to be the homes
Of mighty gods — and pyramids, whose hour
Outlasts all time, above the waters tower!

Then, too, the scenes of pomp and joy, that make
One theatre of this vast peopled lake,
Where all that Love, Religion, Commerce gives
Of life and motion, ever moves and lives.
Here, up the steps of temples, from the wave
Ascending, in procession slow and grave,
Priests, in white garments, go, with sacred wands
And silver cymbals gleaming in their hands:
While, there, rich barks — fresh from those sunny tracts
Far off, beyond the sounding cataracts —
Glide with their precious lading to the sea,
Plumes of bright birds, rhinoceros' ivory,
Gems from the Isle of Meröe, and those grains
Of gold, wash'd down by Abyssinian rains.

Here, where the waters wind into a bay
Shadowy and cool, some pilgrims on their way
To Saïs or Bubastus, among beds
Of lotus-flowers [1], that close above their heads,
Push their light barks, and hid, as in a bower,
Sing, talk, or sleep away the sultry hour;
While haply, not far off, beneath a bank
Of blossoming acacias, many a prank
Is play'd in the cool current by a train
Of laughing nymphs, lovely as she, whose chain
Around two conquerors of the world was cast,
But, for a third too feeble, broke at last!

Enchanted with the whole scene, I lingered delightedly on my voyage, visiting all those luxurious and venerable places, whose names have been consecrated by the wonder of ages. At Saïs I was present during her Festival of Lamps, and read, by the blaze of innumerable lights, those sublime words on the temple of Neïtha [2]: — "I am all that has been, that is, and that will be, and no man hath ever lifted my veil." I wandered among the prostrate obelisks of Heliopolis [3], and saw, not without a sigh, the sun smiling over her ruins, as if in mockery of the mass of perishable grandeur, that had once called itself, in its pride, "The City of the Sun." But to the Isle of the Golden Venus [4] was, I own, my fondest pilgrimage; — and there, as I rambled through its shades, where bowers are the only temples, I felt how far more worthy to form the shrine of a Deity are the everliving stems of the garden and the grove, than the most precious columns the inanimate quarry can supply.

Every where new pleasures, new interests awaited me; and though Melancholy stood, as usual, for ever near, her shadow fell but half-way over my vagrant path, leaving the rest but more welcomely brilliant from the contrast. To relate my various adventures, during this short voyage, would only detain me from events, far, far more worthy of record. Amidst all this endless variety of attractions, the great object of my journey had been forgotten; — the mysteries of this land of the sun still remained, to me, as much mysteries as ever, and as yet I had been initiated in nothing but its pleasures.

It was not till that memorable evening, when I first stood before the Pyramids of Memphis, and beheld them towering aloft, like the watch-towers of Time, from whose summit, when about to expire, he will look his last — it was not till this moment that the great secret announced in my dream again rose, in all its inscrutable darkness upon my thoughts. There was a solemnity in the sunshine resting upon those monuments — a stillness, as of reverence, in the air that breathed around them, which seemed to steal, like the music of past times, into my heart. I thought what myriads of the wise, the beautiful, and the brave, had sunk into dust since earth first saw those wonders; and, in the sadness of my soul, I exclaimed, — "Must man alone, then, perish? must minds and hearts be annihilated, while pyramids endure? Oh, Death, Death! even upon these everlasting tablets — the only approach to immortality that kings themselves could purchase — thou hast written our doom awfully, and intelligibly, saying, 'There is for man no eternal mansion, but the grave!'"

My heart sunk at the thought; and, for the moment, I yielded to that desolate feeling, which overspreads the soul that hath no light from the future. But again the buoyancy of my nature prevailed, and again, the willing dupe of vain dreams, I deluded myself into the belief of all that my heart most wished, with that happy facility which enables imagination to stand in the place of happiness. "Yes," I cried, "immortality *must* be within man's reach; and, as wisdom alone is worthy of such a blessing, to the wise alone must the secret have been revealed. It is said, that deep under yonder pyramid, has lain for ages concealed the Table of Emerald [5], on which the Thrice-Great

[1] Vide *Strabo*.

[2] Το δ' εν Σαει της Αθηνας, ἡν και Ισιν νομιζουσιν, ἑδος, επιγραφην εχει τοιαυτην, Εγω ειμι παν το γεγονος, και ον και εσομενον, και τον εμον πεπλον ουδεις πω απεκαλυψεν. — *Plutarch. de Isid. et Osir.*

[3] "De là, en remontant toujours le Nil, on trouve à deux cent cinquante pas, ou environ de la Matarée, les traces de l'ancienne Héliopolis, ou Ville de Soleil, à qui ce lieu étoit particulièrement consacré. C'est pour cette raison qu'on l'appeloit encore l'Œil, ou la Fontaine du Soleil." — *Maillet.*

[4] "On trouve une île appelée Venus-Dorée, ou le champ d'or, avant de remonter jusqu'à Memphis." — *Voyages de Pythagore.*

[5] For an account of the Table of Emerald, vide *Lettres sur l'Origine des Dieux d'Egypte. De Pauw* supposes it to be a modern fiction of the Arabs. Many writers have fancied that the art of making gold was the great secret that lay hid under the forms of Egyptian theology. "La science hermétique," says the Benedictine, Pernetz, "l'art sacerdotal, étoit la source de toutes les richesses des Rois d'Egypte, et l'objet

Hermes, in times before the flood, engraved the secret of Alchemy, which gives gold at will. Why then, may not the mightier, the more god-like secret, that gives *life* at will, be recorded there also? It was by the power of gold, of endless gold, that the kings, who now repose in those massy structures, scooped earth to its very centre, and raised quarries into the air, to provide for themselves tombs that might outstand the world. Who can tell but that the gift of immortality was also theirs? who knows but that they themselves, triumphant over decay, still live;—those mighty mansions, which we call tombs, being rich and everlasting palaces, within whose depths, concealed from this withering world, they still wander, with the few Elect who have been sharers of their gift, through a sunless, but ever illuminated, elysium of their own? Else, wherefore those structures? wherefore that subterranean realm, by which the whole valley of Egypt is undermined? Why, else, those labyrinths, which none of earth hath ever beheld—which none of heaven, except that God, who stands, with finger on his hushed lip [1], hath ever trodden?"

While thus I indulged in fond dreams, the sun, already half sunk beneath the horizon, was taking calmly and gloriously, his last look of the Pyramids—as he had done, evening after evening, for ages, till they had grown familiar to him as the earth itself. On the side turned to his ray they now presented a front of dazzling whiteness [2], while, on the other, their great shadows, lengthening away to the eastward, looked like the first steps of Night, hastening to envelope the hills of Araby in her shade.

No sooner had the last gleam of the sun disappeared, than, on every house-top in Memphis, gay, gilded banners were seen waving aloft, to proclaim his setting—while, at the same moment, a full burst of harmony was heard to peal from all the temples along the shores.

Startled from my musing by these sounds, I at once recollected, that, on that very evening, the great festival of the Moon was to be celebrated. On a little island, half-way over between the gardens of Memphis and the eastern shore, stood the temple of that goddess,

whose beams
Bring the sweet time of night-flowers and dreams.
Not the cold Dian of the North, who chains
In vestal ice the current of young veins;
But she, who haunts the gay, Bubastian [3] grove,
And owns she sees, from her bright heaven above,
Nothing on earth to match that heaven, but love!

Thus did I exclaim, in the words of one of their own Egyptian poets, as, anticipating the various delights of the festival, I cast away from my mind all gloomy thoughts; and, hastening to my little bark, in which I now lived the life of a Nile-bird, on the waters, steered my course to the island-temple of the Moon.

CHAPTER V.

The rising of the Moon, slow and majestic, as if conscious of the honours that awaited her upon earth, was welcomed with a loud acclaim from every eminence, where multitudes stood watching for her first light. And seldom had that light risen upon a more beautiful scene. The city of Memphis—still grand, though no longer the unrivalled Memphis, that had borne away from Thebes the crown of supremacy, and worn it undisputed through ages—now, softened by the mild moonlight that harmonised with her decline, shone forth among her lakes, her pyramids, and her shrines, like one of those dreams of human glory that must ere long pass away. Even already ruin was visible around her. The sands of the Libyan desert were gaining upon her like a sea; and there, among solitary columns and sphinxes, already half sunk from sight, Time seemed to stand waiting, till all that now flourished around him should fall beneath his desolating hand, like the rest.

On the waters all was gaiety and life. As far as eye could reach, the lights of innumerable boats were seen studding, like rubies, the surface of the stream. Vessels of every kind—from the light coracle [4], built for shooting down the cataracts, to the large yacht that glides slowly to the sound of flutes—all were afloat for this sacred festival, filled with crowds of the young and the gay, not only from

de ces mystères si cachés sous le voile de leur prétendue Religion."—*Fables Egyptiennes*. The hieroglyphs, that formerly covered the Pyramids, are supposed by some of these writers to relate to the same art. See *Mutus Liber*, *Rupellæ*.

[1] "Enfin Harpocrate représentoit aussi le Soleil. Il est vrai que c'étoit aussi le Dieu du Silence; il mettoit le doigt sur la bouche parcequ'on adoroit le soleil avec un respectueux silence, et c'est de là qu'est venu le Sigé des Basilidiens, qui tiroient leur origine de l'Egypte."—*Beausobre*.

[2] "By reflecting the sun's rays," says *Clarke*, speaking of the Pyramids, "they appeared white as snow."

[3] For Bubastis, the Diana of the Egyptians, vide *Jablonski*, lib. iii. cap. 4.

[4] Vide *Amailhou*, "*Histoire de la Navigation et du Commerce des Egyptiens sous les Ptolemées*." See also, for a description of the various kinds of boats used on the Nile, *Maillet*, tom. i. p. 98.

Memphis and Babylon, but from cities still farther removed from the festal scene.

As I approached the island, I could see, glittering through the trees on the bank, the lamps of the pilgrims hastening to the ceremony. Landing in the direction which those lights pointed out, I soon joined the crowd; and, passing through a long alley of sphinxes, whose spangling marble gleamed out from the dark sycamores around them, reached in a short time the grand vestibule of the temple, where I found the ceremonies of the evening already commenced.

In this vast hall, which was surrounded by a double range of columns, and lay open over-head to the stars of heaven, I saw a group of young maidens, moving in a sort of measured step, between walk and dance, round a small shrine, upon which stood one of those sacred birds[1], that, on account of the variegated colour of their wings, are dedicated to the worship of the moon. The vestibule was dimly lighted — there being but one lamp of naphtha hung on each of the great pillars that encircled it. But, having taken my station beside one of those pillars, I had a clear view of the young dancers, as in succession they passed me.

The drapery of all was white as snow; and each wore loosely, beneath the bosom, a dark-blue zone, or bandelet, studded, like the skies at midnight, with small silver stars. Through their dark locks was wreathed the white lily of the Nile — that sacred flower being accounted no less welcome to the moon, than the golden blossoms of the bean-flower[2] are known to be to the sun. As they passed under the lamp, a gleam of light flashed from their bosoms, which, I could perceive, was the reflection of a small mirror, that, in the manner of the women of the East, each of the dancers wore beneath her left shoulder.

There was no music to regulate their steps; but, as they gracefully went round the bird on the shrine, some to the beat of the castanet, some to the shrill ring of a sistrum[3] — which they held uplifted in the attitude of their own divine Isis — continued harmoniously to time the cadence of their feet; while others, at every step, shook a small chain of silver, whose sound, mingling with those of the castanets and sistrums, produced a wild, but not unpleasing harmony.

They seemed all lovely; but there was one — whose face the light had not yet reached, so downcast she held it — who attracted, and, at length, riveted all my looks and thoughts. I know not why, but there was a something in those half-seen features — a charm in the very shadow, that hung over their imagined beauty — which took my fancy more than all the out-shining loveliness of her companions. So enchained was I by this coy mystery, that her alone, of all the group, could I either see or think of — her alone I watched, as, with the same downcast brow, she glided gently and aërially round the altar, as if her presence, like that of a spirit, was something to be felt, not seen.

Suddenly, while I gazed, the loud crash of a thousand cymbals was heard; — the massy gates of the Temple flew open, as if by magic, and a flood of radiance from the illuminated aisle filled the whole vestibule; while, at the same instant, as if the light and the sounds were born together, a peal of rich harmony came mingling with the radiance.

It was then — by that light, which shone full upon the young maiden's features, as, starting at the sudden blaze, she raised her eyes to the portal, and as quickly let fall their lids again — it was then I beheld, what even my own ardent imagination, in its most vivid dreams of beauty, had never pictured. Not Psyche herself, when pausing on the threshold of heaven, while its first glories fell on her dazzled lids, could have looked more purely beautiful, or blushed with a more innocent shame. Often as I had felt the power of looks, none had ever entered into my soul so deeply. It was a new feeling — a new sense — coming as suddenly upon me as that radiance into the vestibule, and, at once, filling my whole being; — and had that bright vision but lingered another moment before my eyes, I should in my transport have wholly forgotten who I was and where, and thrown myself, in prostrate adoration, at her feet.

But scarcely had that gush of harmony been heard, when the sacred bird, which had, till now, been standing motionless as an image, spread wide

[1] Vide *Maurice*, Appendix to "Ruins of Babylon." Another reason, he says, for their worship of the Ibis, "founded on their love of geometry, was (according to Plutarch) that the space between its legs, when parted asunder, as it walks, together with its beak, forms a complete equilateral triangle." From the examination of the embalmed birds, found in the Catacombs of Saccara, there seems to be no doubt that the Ibis was the same kind of bird as that described by Bruce, under the Arabian name of Abou Hannes.

[2] "La fleur en est mille fois plus odoriférante que celles de nos fèves d'Europe, quoique leur parfum nous paroisse si agréable. Comme on en seme beaucoup dans les terres voisines du Caire, du côté de l'occident, c'est quelque chose de charmant que l'air embaumé que l'on respire le soir sur les terrasses, quand le vent de l'ouest vient à souffler, et y apporte cette odeur admirable."—*Maillet*.

[3] "Isis est genius," says *Servius*, "Ægypti, qui per sistri motum, quod gerit in dextra, Nili accessus recessusque significat."

his wings, and flew into the Temple; while his graceful young worshippers, with a fleetness like his own, followed—and she, who had left a dream in my heart never to be forgotten, vanished along with the rest. As she went rapidly past the pillar against which I leaned, the ivy that encircled it[1] caught in her drapery, and disengaged some ornament, which fell to the ground. It was the small mirror[2] which I had seen shining on her bosom. Hastily and tremulously I picked it up, and hurried to restore it; but she was already lost to my eyes in the crowd.

In vain did I try to follow;—the aisles were already filled, and numbers of eager pilgrims pressed towards the portal. But the servants of the Temple denied all further entrance, and still, as I presented myself, their white wands barred the way. Perplexed and irritated amid that crowd of faces, regarding all as enemies that impeded my progress, I stood on tiptoe, gazing into the busy aisles, and with a heart beating as I caught, from time to time, a glimpse of some spangled zone, or lotus wreath, which led me to fancy that I had discovered the fair object of my search. But it was all *in* vain;—in every direction, files of sacred nymphs were moving, but nowhere could I discover her whom alone I sought.

In this state of breathless agitation did I stand for some time—bewildered with the confusion of faces and lights, as well as with the clouds of incense that rolled around me—till, fevered and impatient, I could endure it no longer. Forcing my way out of the vestibule into the cool air, I hurried back through the alley of sphinxes to the shore, and flung myself into my boat.

There lies, to the north of Memphis[3], a solitary lake, (which, at this season of the year, mingles with the rest of the waters,) upon whose shores stands the Necropolis, or City of the Dead—a place of melancholy grandeur, covered over with shrines and pyramids, where many a kingly head, proud even in death, has lain awaiting through long ages the resurrection of its glories. Through a range of sepulchral grots underneath, the humbler denizens of the tomb are deposited—looking out on each successive generation that visits them, with the same face and features[4] they wore centuries ago. Every plant and tree, consecrated to death, from the asphodel-flower to the mystic plantain, lends its sweetness or shadow to this place of tombs; and the only noise that disturbs its eternal calm, is the low humming sound of the priests at prayer, when a new inhabitant is added to the Silent City.

It was towards this place of death that, in a mood of mind, as usual, half gloomy, half bright, I now, almost unconsciously, directed my bark. The form of the young Priestess was continually before me. That one bright look of hers, the very remembrance of which was worth all the actual smiles of others, never for a moment left my mind. Absorbed in such thoughts, I continued to row on, scarce knowing whither I went, till, at length, startled to find myself within the shadow of the City of the Dead, I looked up, and beheld, rising in succession before me, pyramid beyond pyramid[5], each towering more loftily than the other—while all were out-topped in grandeur by one, upon whose summit the bright moon rested as on a pedestal.

Drawing nearer to the shore, which was sufficiently elevated to raise this silent city of tombs above the level of the inundation, I rested my oar, and allowed the boat to rock idly upon the water; while, in the mean time, my thoughts, left equally without direction, were allowed to fluctuate as idly. How vague and various were the dreams that then floated through my mind—that bright vision of the temple still mingling itself with all! Sometimes she stood before me, like an aërial spirit, as pure as if that element of music and light, into which I had seen her vanish, was her only dwelling. Sometimes, animated with passion, and kindling into a creature of earth, she seemed to lean towards me with looks of tenderness, which it were worth worlds, but for one instant, to

[1] The ivy was consecrated to Osiris. Vide *Diodor. Sic.* 1. 10.

[2] "Quelques-unes," says *Dupuis*, describing the processions of Isis, "portoient des miroirs attachés à leurs épaules, afin de multiplier et de porter dans tous les sens les images de la Déesse."—*Origine des Cultes*, tom. viii. p. 847. A mirror, it appears, was also one of the emblems in the mysteries of Bacchus.

[3] "Tout prouve que la territoire de Sakkarah étoit la Nécropolis au sud de Memphis, et le faubourg opposé à celui-ci, où sont les pyramides de Gizeh, une autre Ville des Morts, qui terminoit Memphis au nord."—*Denon.*

There is nothing known with certainty as to the site of Memphis, but it will be perceived that the description of its position given by the Epicurean corresponds, in almost every particular, with that which M. Maillet (the French consul, for many years, at Cairo) has, in his work on Egypt, left us. It must be always borne in mind, too, that of the distances between the respective places here mentioned, we have no longer any accurate means of judging.

[4] "Par-là non-seulement on conservoit les corps d'une famille entière, mais en descendant dans ces lieux souterrains, où ils étoient déposés, on pouvoit se représenter en un instant tous ses ancêtres depuis plusieurs milliers d'années, tels à peu près qu'ils étoient de leur vivant."—*Maillet.*

[5] "Multas olim pyramidas fuisse e ruinis arguitur." *Zoega.* — *Vansleb*, who visited more than ten of the small pyramids, is of opinion that there must have originally been a hundred in this place.

See, on the subject of the lake to the northward of Memphis, *Shaw's Travels*, p. 302.

inspire; and again—as the dark fancies, that ever haunted me, recurred—I saw her cold, parched, and blackening, amid the gloom of those eternal sepulchres before me!

Turning away, with a shudder, from the cemetery at this thought, I heard the sound of an oar plying swiftly through the water, and, in a few moments, saw, shooting past me towards the shore, a small boat in which sat two female figures, muffled up and veiled. Having landed them not far from the spot where, under the shadow of a tomb on the bank, I lay concealed, the boat again departed, with the same fleetness, over the flood.

Never had the prospect of a lively adventure come more welcome to me than at this moment, when my busy fancy was employed in weaving such chains for my heart, as threatened a bondage, of all others, the most difficult to break. To become enamoured thus of a creature of my own imagination, was the worst, because the most lasting, of follies. It is only reality that can afford any chance of dissolving such spells, and the idol I was now creating to myself must for ever remain ideal. Any pursuit, therefore, that seemed likely to divert me from such thoughts—to bring back my imagination to earth and reality, from the vague region in which it had been wandering, was a relief far too seasonable not to be welcomed with eagerness.

I had watched the course which the two figures took, and, having hastily fastened my boat to the bank, stepped gently on shore, and, at a little distance, followed them. The windings through which they led were intricate; but, by the bright light of the moon, I was enabled to keep their forms in view, as, with rapid step, they glided among the monuments. At length, in the shade of a small pyramid, whose peak barely surmounted the plane-trees that grew nigh, they vanished from my sight. I hastened to the spot, but there was not a sign of life around; and, had my creed extended to another world, I might have fancied these forms were spirits, sent down from thence to mock me—so instantaneously had they disappeared. I searched through the neighbouring grove, but all there was still as death. At length, in examining one of the sides of the pyramid, which, for a few feet from the ground, was furnished with steps, I found, midway between peak and base, a part of its surface, which, although presenting to the eye an appearance of smoothness, gave to the touch, I thought, indications of a concealed opening.

After a variety of efforts and experiments, I, at last, more by accident than skill, pressed the spring that commanded this hidden aperture. In an instant the portal slid aside, and disclosed a narrow stairway within, the two or three first steps of which were discernible by the moonlight, while the rest were all lost in utter darkness. Though it was difficult to conceive that the persons whom I had been pursuing would have ventured to pass through this gloomy opening, yet to account for their disappearance otherwise was still more difficult. At all events, my curiosity was now too eager in the chase to relinquish it;—the spirit of adventure, once raised, could not be so easily laid. Accordingly, having sent up a gay prayer to that bliss-loving Queen whose eye alone was upon me, I passed through the portal, and descended into the pyramid.

CHAPTER VI.

At the bottom of the stairway I found myself in a low, narrow passage, through which, without stooping almost to the earth, it was impossible to proceed. Though leading through a multiplicity of dark windings, this way seemed but little to advance my progress—its course, I perceived, being chiefly circular, and gathering, at every turn, but a deeper intensity of darkness.

"Can any thing," thought I, "of human kind sojourn here?"—and had scarcely asked myself the question, when the path opened into a long gallery, at the farthest end of which a gleam of light was visible. This welcome glimmer appeared to issue from some cell or alcove, in which the right-hand wall of the gallery terminated, and, breathless with expectation, I stole gently towards it.

Arrived at the end of the gallery, a scene presented itself to my eyes, for which my fondest expectations of adventure could not have prepared me. The place from which the light proceeded was a small chapel, of whose interior, from the dark recess in which I stood, I could take, unseen myself, a full and distinct view. Over the walls of this oratory were painted some of those various symbols, by which the mystic wisdom of the Egyptians loves to shadow out the History of the Soul; the winged globe with a serpent—the rays descending from above, like a glory—and the Theban beetle[1], as he comes forth after the waters

[1] "On voit en Egypte, après la retraite du Nil et la fécondation des terres, le limon couvert d'une multitude de scarabées. Un pareil phénomène a dû sembler aux Egyptiens le plus propre à peindre une nouvelle existence." — *M. Jombard.*

have passed away, and the first sunbeam falls on his regenerated wings.

In the middle of the chapel, on a low altar of granite, lay a lifeless female form, enshrined within a case of crystal[1]—as it is the custom to preserve the dead in Ethiopia—and looking as freshly beautiful as if the soul had but a few hours departed. Among the emblems of death[2], on the front of the altar, were a slender lotus branch broken in two, and a small bird just winging its flight from the spray.

To these memorials of the dead, however, I paid but little attention; for there was a living object there upon which my eyes were now intently fixed.

The lamp, by which the whole of the chapel was illuminated, was placed at the head of the pale image in the shrine; and between its light and me stood a female form, bending over the monument, as if to gaze upon the silent features within. The position in which this figure was placed, intercepting a strong light, afforded me, at first, but an imperfect and shadowy view of it. Yet even at this mere outline I felt my heart beat high—and memory had no less share, as it proved, in this feeling than imagination. For, on the head changing its position, so as to let a gleam fall upon the features, I saw, with a transport which had almost led me to betray my lurking-place, that it was she—the young worshipper of Isis—the same, the very same, whom I had seen, brightening the holy place where she stood, and looking like an inhabitant of some purer world.

The movement, by which she had now afforded me an opportunity of recognising her, was made in raising from the shrine a small cross[3] of silver, which lay directly over the bosom of the lifeless figure. Bringing it close to her lips, she kissed it with a religious fervour; then, turning her eyes mournfully upwards, held them fixed with a degree of inspired earnestness, as if, at that moment, in direct communion with Heaven, they saw neither roof, nor any other earthly barrier, between them and the skies.

What a power is there in innocence! whose very helplessness is its safeguard—in whose presence even Passion himself stands abashed, and turns worshipper at the very altar which he came to despoil! She, who, but a short hour before, had presented herself to my imagination as something I could have risked immortality to win—she, whom gladly, from the floor of her own lighted temple, in the very face of its proud ministers, I would have borne away in triumph, and dared all punishments, divine and human, to make her mine—that very creature was now before me, as if thrown by fate itself, into my power—standing there, beautiful and alone, with nothing but her innocence for her guard! Yet, no—so touching was the purity of the whole scene, so calm and august that protection which the dead extended over the living, that every earthly feeling was forgotten as I gazed, and love itself became exalted into reverence.

But, entranced as I felt in witnessing such a scene, thus to enjoy it by stealth seemed to me a wrong, a sacrilege—and, rather than let her eyes encounter the flash of mine, or disturb, by a whisper, that sacred silence, in which Youth and Death held communion through undying Love, I would have suffered my heart to break, without a murmur, where I stood. Gently, as if life itself depended on my every movement, I stole away from that tranquil and holy scene—leaving it still holy and tranquil as I had found it—and, gliding back through the same passages and windings by which I had entered, reached again the narrow stairway, and re-ascended into light.

The sun had just risen, and, from the summit of

Partly for the same reason, and partly for another, still more fanciful, the early Christians used to apply this emblem to Christ. "Bonus ille scarabæus meus," says St. Augustine, "non eâ tantum de causâ quod unigenitus, quod ipsemet sui auctor mortalium speciem induerit, sed quòd in hac nostrâ fæce sese volutaverit et ex hac ipsâ nasci voluerit."

[1] "Les Egyptiens ont fait aussi, pour conserver leurs morts, des caisses de verre."—*De Pauw.* He mentions, also, in another place, a sort of transparent substance, which the Ethiopians used for the same purpose, and which was frequently mistaken by the Greeks for glass.

[2] "Un prêtre, qui brise la tige d'une fleur, des oiseaux qui s'envolent, sont les emblèmes de la mort et de l'âme qui se sépare du corps."—*Denon.*

Theseus employs the same image in the Phædra:—

Ορνις γαρ ὡς τις εκ χερων αφαντος ει,
Πηδημ' ες ἀδου πικρον ὁρμησασα μοι.

[3] A cross was, among the Egyptians, the emblem of a future life.

"The singular appearance of a Cross so frequently recurring among the hieroglyphics of Egypt, had excited the curiosity of the Christians at a very early period of ecclesiastical history; and as some of the Priests, who were acquainted with the meaning of the hieroglyphics, became converted to Christianity, the secret transpired. 'The converted heathens,' says Socrates Scholasticus, 'explained the symbol, and declared that it signified Life to Come.'"—*Clarke.*

Lipsius, therefore, is mistaken in supposing the Cross to have been an emblem peculiar to the Christians. See, on this subject, *L'Histoire des Juifs*, liv. vi. c. 16.

It is singular enough that while the Cross was thus held sacred among the Egyptians, not only the custom of marking the forehead with the sign of the Cross, but Baptism and the consecration of the bread in the Eucharist, were imitated in the mysterious ceremonies of Mithra.—*Tertull. de Proscriptione Hereticorum.*

Zoega is of opinion that the Cross, said to have been for the first time found, on the destruction of the temple of Serapis, by the Christians, could not have been the crux ansata; as nothing is more common than this emblem on all the Egyptian monuments.

the Arabian hills, was pouring down his beams into that vast valley of waters—as if proud of last night's homage to his own divine Isis, now fading away in the superior splendour of her Lord. My first impulse was to fly at once from this dangerous spot, and in new loves and pleasures seek forgetfulness of the wondrous scene I had just witnessed. "Once," I exclaimed, "out of the circle of this enchantment, I know too well my own susceptibility to new impressions, to feel any doubt that I shall soon break the spell that is now around me."

But vain were all my efforts and resolves. Even while swearing to fly that spot, I found my steps still lingering fondly round the pyramid—my eyes still turned towards the portal which severed this enchantress from the world of the living. Hour after hour did I wander through that City of Silence, till, already, it was mid-day, and, under the sun's meridian eye, the mighty pyramid of pyramids stood, like a great spirit, shadowless.[1]

Again did those wild and passionate feelings, which, for the moment, her presence had subdued into reverence, return to take possession of my imagination and my senses. I even reproached myself for the awe, that had held me spell-bound before her. "What," thought I, "would my companions of the Garden say, did they know that their chief—he whose path Love had strewed with trophies—was now pining for a simple Egyptian girl, in whose presence he had not dared to utter a single sigh, and who had vanquished the victor, without even knowing her triumph!"

A blush came over my cheek at the humiliating thought, and I determined, at all risks, to await her coming. That she should be an inmate of those gloomy caverns seemed inconceivable; nor did there appear to be any egress out of their depths but by the pyramid. Again, therefore, like a sentinel of the dead, did I pace up and down among those tombs, contrasting mournfully the burning fever in my own veins with the cold quiet of those who lay slumbering around.

At length the intense glow of the sun over my head, and, still more, that ever restless agitation in my heart, became too much for even strength like mine to endure. Exhausted, I threw myself down at the base of the pyramid—choosing my place directly under the portal, where, even should slumber surprise me, my heart, if not my ear, might still keep watch, and her footstep, light as it was, could not fail to awake me.

After many an ineffectual struggle against drowsiness, I at length sunk into sleep—but not into forgetfulness. The same image still haunted me, in every variety of shape, with which imagination, assisted by memory, could invest it. Now, like the goddess Neïtha, upon her throne at Saïs, she seemed to sit, with the veil just raised from that brow, which till then no mortal had ever beheld—and now, like the beautiful enchantress Rhodope, I saw her rise from out the pyramid in which she had dwelt for ages,—

> "Fair Rhodope[2], as story tells,
> The bright unearthly nymph, who dwells
> 'Mid sunless gold and jewels hid,
> The Lady of the Pyramid!"

So long had my sleep continued, that, when I awoke, I found the moon again resplendent above the horizon. But all around was looking tranquil and lifeless as before; nor did a print on the grass betray that any foot had passed there since my own. Refreshed, however, by my long rest, and with a fancy still more excited by the mystic wonders of which I had been dreaming, I now resolved to revisit the chapel in the pyramid, and put an end, if possible, to this strange mystery that haunted me.

Having learned, from the experience of the preceding night, the inconvenience of encountering those labyrinths without a light, I now hastened to provide myself with a lamp from my boat. Tracking my way back with some difficulty to the shore, I there found not only my lamp, but also some dates and dried fruits, of which I was always provided with store, for my roving life upon the waters, and which, after so many hours of abstinence, were now a most welcome and necessary relief.

Thus prepared, I again ascended the pyramid, and was proceeding to search out the secret spring, when a loud, dismal noise was heard at a distance, to which all the melancholy echoes of the cemetery gave answer. The sound came, I knew, from the Great Temple on the shore of the lake, and was the sort of shriek which its gates—the Gates of Oblivion[3] as they are called—used always to send forth from their hinges, when opening at night, to receive the newly-landed dead.

I had, more than once before, heard that sound,

[1] It was an idea entertained among the ancients that the Pyramids were so constructed ("mecanicâ constructione," says *Ammianus Marcellinus*) as never to cast any shadow.

[2] From the story of Rhodope, *Zoega* thinks, "videntur Arabes ansam arripuisse ut in una ex pyramidibus, genii loco, habitare dicerent mulierem nudam insignis pulchritudinis quæ aspecto suo homines insanire faciat."—*De Usu Obeliscorum*. See also *L'Egypte de Murtadi, par Vattier*.

[3] "Apud Memphim æneas quasdam portas, quæ Lethes et Cocyti (hoc est oblivionis et lamentationis) appellantur, aperiri, gravem asperumque edentes sonum."—*Zoega*.

and always with sadness; but, at this moment, it thrilled through me like a voice of ill omen, and I almost doubted whether I should not abandon my enterprise. The hesitation, however, was but momentary;—even while it passed through my mind, I had touched the spring of the portal. In a few seconds more, I was again in the passage beneath the pyramid; and, being enabled by the light of my lamp to follow the windings more rapidly, soon found myself at the door of the small chapel in the gallery.

I entered, still awed, though there was now, alas, nought living within. The young Priestess had vanished like a spirit into the darkness; and all the rest remained as I had left it on the preceding night. The lamp still stood burning upon the crystal shrine; the cross was lying where the hands of the young mourner had placed it, and the cold image, within the shrine, wore still the same tranquil look, as if resigned to the solitude of death—of all lone things the loneliest. Remembering the lips that I had seen kiss that cross, and kindling with the recollection, I raised it passionately to my own;—but the dead eyes, I thought, met mine, and, awed and saddened in the midst of my ardour, I replaced the cross upon the shrine.

I had now lost every clue to the object of my pursuit, and, with all that sullen satisfaction which certainty, even when unwelcome, brings, was about to retrace my steps slowly to earth, when, as I held forth my lamp, on leaving the chapel, I perceived that the gallery, instead of terminating here, took a sudden and snake-like bend to the left, which had before eluded my observation, and which seemed to give promise of a pathway still farther into those recesses. Re-animated by this discovery, which opened a new source of hope to my heart, I cast, for a moment, a hesitating look at my lamp, as if to inquire whether it would be faithful through the gloom I was about to encounter, and then, without further consideration, rushed eagerly forward.

CHAPTER VII.

The path led, for a while, through the same sort of narrow windings as those which I had before encountered in descending the stairway; and at length opened, in a similar manner, into a straight and steep gallery, along each side of which stood, closely ranged and upright, a file of lifeless bodies[1], whose glassy eyes appeared to glare upon me preternaturally as I passed.

Arrived at the end of this gallery, I found my hopes, for the second time, vanish; as the path, it was manifest, extended no further. The only object I was able to discern, by the glimmering of my lamp, which now burned, every minute, fainter and fainter, was the mouth of a huge well, that lay gaping before me—a reservoir of darkness, black and unfathomable. It now crossed my memory that I had once heard of such wells, as being used occasionally for passages by the priests. Leaning down, therefore, over the edge, I examined anxiously all within, in order to see if it afforded the means of effecting a descent into the chasm; but the sides, I could perceive, were hard and smooth as glass, being varnished all over with that sort of dark pitch, which the Dead Sea throws out upon its slimy shore.

After a more attentive scrutiny, however, I observed, at the depth of a few feet, a sort of iron step, projecting dimly from the side, and, below it, another, which, though hardly perceptible, was just sufficient to encourage an adventurous foot to the trial. Though all hope of tracing the young Priestess was now at an end—it being impossible that female foot should have ventured on this descent—yet, as I had engaged so far in the adventure, and there was, at least, a mystery to be unravelled, I determined, at all hazards, to explore the chasm. Placing my lamp, therefore, (which was hollowed at the bottom, so as to be worn like a helmet,) firmly upon my head, and having thus both hands at liberty for exertion, I set my foot cautiously on the iron step, and descended into the well.

I found the same footing, at regular intervals, to a considerable depth; and had already counted near a hundred of these steps, when the ladder altogether ceased, and I could descend no further. In vain did I stretch down my foot in search of support—the hard slippery sides were all that it encountered. At length, stooping my head, so as to let the light fall below, I observed an opening or window directly above the step on which I stood; and, taking for granted that the way must lie in that direction, contrived to clamber, with no small difficulty, through the aperture.

I now found myself on a rude and narrow stairway, the steps of which were cut out of the living rock, and wound spirally downward in the same

[1] See, for the custom of burying the dead upright, ("post funus stantia busto corpora," as Statius describes it,) Dr. Clarke's preface to the 2d section of his fifth volume. They used to insert precious stones in the place of the eyes. "Les yeux étoient formés d'émeraudes, de turquoises," &c.—Vide *Masoudy*, quoted by *Quatremère*.

direction as the well. Almost dizzy with the descent, which seemed as if it would never end, I, at last, reached the bottom, where a pair of massy iron gates were closed directly across my path, as if wholly to forbid any further progress. Massy and gigantic, however, as they were, I found, to my surprise, that the hand of an infant might have opened them with ease—so readily did their stupendous folds give way to my touch,

> "Light as a lime-bush, that receives
> Some wandering bird among its leaves."

No sooner, however, had I passed through, than the astounding din, with which the gates clashed together again [1], was such as might have awakened death itself. It seemed as if every echo [2] throughout that vast, subterranean world, from the Catacombs of Alexandria to Thebes's Valley of Kings, had caught up and repeated the thundering sound.

Startled as I was by the crash, not even this supernatural clangour could divert my attention from the sudden light that now broke around me—soft, warm, and welcome, as are the stars of his own South to the eyes of the mariner who has long been wandering through the cold seas of the North. Looking for the source of this splendour, I saw, through an archway opposite, a long illuminated alley, stretching away as far as the eye could reach, and fenced, on one side, with thickets of odoriferous shrubs; while along the other extended a line of lofty arcades, from which the light, that filled the whole area, issued. As soon, too, as the din of the deep echoes had subsided, there stole gradually on my ear a strain of choral music, which appeared to come mellowed and sweetened in its passage, through many a spacious hall within those shining arcades; while among the voices I could distinguish some female tones, which, towering high and clear above all the rest, formed the spire, as it were, into which the harmony tapered as it rose.

So excited was my fancy by this sudden enchantment, that—though never had I caught a sound from the fair Egyptian's lips—I yet persuaded myself that the voice I now heard was hers, sounding highest and most heavenly of all that choir, and calling to me, like a distant spirit from its sphere. Animated by this thought, I flew forward to the archway, but found, to my mortification, that it was guarded by a trellis-work, whose bars, though invisible at a distance, resisted all my efforts to force them.

While occupied in these ineffectual struggles, I perceived, to the left of the archway, a dark cavernous opening, which seemed to lead in a direction parallel to the lighted arcades. Notwithstanding, however, my impatience, the aspect of this passage, as I looked shudderingly into it, chilled my very blood. It was not so much darkness, as a sort of livid and ghastly twilight, from which a damp, like that of death-vaults, exhaled, and through which, if my eyes did not deceive me, pale, phantom-like shapes [3] were, at that very moment, hovering.

Looking anxiously round, to discover some less formidable outlet, I saw, over the vast folding-gates through which I had just passed, a blue, tremulous flame, which, after playing for a few seconds over the dark ground of the pediment, settled gradually into characters of light, and formed the following words:—

> You, who would try
> Yon terrible track,
> To live, or to die,
> But ne'er to look back—
>
> You, who aspire
> To be purified there,
> By the terrors of Fire,
> Of Water, and Air—
>
> If danger, and pain,
> And death, you despise,
> On—for again
> Into light you shall rise;
>
> Rise into light
> With that Secret Divine,
> Now shrouded from sight
> By the Veils of the Shrine!
>
> But if——

Here the letters faded away into a dead blank, more awfully intelligible than the most eloquent words.

A new hope now flashed across me. The dream of the Garden, which had been for some time almost forgotten, returned freshly to my mind. "Am I, then," I exclaimed, "in the path to the promised mystery? and shall the great secret of Eternal Life *indeed* be mine?"

"Yes!" seemed to answer out of the air, that spirit-voice, which still was heard at a distance

[1] The following verses of Claudian are supposed to have been meant as a description of those imitations of the noise of earthquake and thunder, which, by means of the Ceraunoscope, and other such contrivances, were practised in the shows of the Mysteries:—

> Jam mihi cernuntur trepidis delubra moveri
> Sedibus, et claram dispergere culmina lucem,
> Adventum testata Dei. Jam magnus ab imis
> Auditur fremitus terris, templumque remugit
> Cecropium. *Rapt. Proserp.* lib. i.

[2] See, for the echoes in the pyramids, *Plutarch. de Placitis Philosoph.*

[3] "Ce moment heureux (de l'Autopsie) étoit preparé par des scènes effrayantes, par des alternatives de crainte et de joie, de lumière et de ténèbres, par la lueur des éclairs, par le bruit terrible de la foudre, qu'on imitoit, et par des apparitions de spectres, des illusions magiques, qui frappoient les yeux et les oreilles tout ensemble."—*Dupuis.*

crowning the choir with its single sweetness, I hailed the omen with transport. Love and Immortality, both beckoning me onward — who would give even a thought to fear, with two such bright hopes in prospect? Having invoked and blessed that unknown enchantress, whose steps had led me to this abode of mystery and knowledge, I instantly plunged into the chasm.

Instead of that vague, spectral twilight which had at first met my eye, I now found, as I entered, a thick darkness, which, though far less horrible, was, at this moment, still more disconcerting, as my lamp, which had been, for some time, almost useless, was now fast expiring. Resolved, however, to make the most of its last gleam, I hastened, with rapid step, through this gloomy region, which appeared to be wider and more open to the air than any I had yet passed. Nor was it long before the sudden appearance of a bright blaze in the distance announced to me that my first great Trial was at hand. As I drew nearer, the flames before me burst high and wide on all sides; — and the awful spectacle that then presented itself was such as might have daunted hearts far more accustomed to dangers than mine.

There lay before me, extending completely across my path, a thicket, or grove, of the most combustible trees of Egypt — tamarind, pine, and Arabian balm; while around their stems and branches were coiled serpents of fire[1], which, twisting themselves rapidly from bough to bough, spread the contagion of their own wild-fire as they went, and involved tree after tree in one general blaze. It was, indeed, rapid as the burning of those reed-beds of Ethiopia[2], whose light is often seen brightening, at night, the distant cataracts of the Nile.

Through the middle of this blazing grove, I could now perceive my only pathway lay. There was not a moment, therefore, to be lost — for the conflagration gained rapidly on either side, and already the narrowing path between was strewed with vivid fire. Casting away my now useless lamp, and holding my robe as some slight protection over my head, I ventured, with trembling limbs, into the blaze.

Instantly, as if my presence had given new life to the flames, a fresh outbreak of combustion arose on all sides. The trees clustered into a bower of fire above my head, while the serpents that hung hissing from the red branches shot showers of sparkles down upon me as I passed. Never were decision and activity of more avail: — one minute later, and I must have perished. The narrow opening, of which I had so promptly availed myself, closed instantly behind me; and as I looked back, to contemplate the ordeal which I had passed, I saw that the whole grove was already one mass of fire.

Rejoiced to have escaped this first trial, I instantly plucked from one of the pine-trees a bough that was but just kindled, and, with this for my only guide, hastened breathlessly forward. I had advanced but a few paces, when the path turned suddenly off, leading downwards, as I could perceive by the glimmer of my brand, into a more confined region, through which a chilling air, as if from some neighbouring waters, blew over my brow. Nor had I proceeded far in this course, when the sound of torrents[3] — mixed, as I thought, from time to time, with shrill wailings, resembling the cries of persons in danger or distress — fell mournfully upon my ear. At every step the noise of the dashing waters increased, and I now perceived that I had entered an immense rocky cavern, through the middle of which, headlong as a winter-torrent, the dark flood, to whose roar I had been listening, poured its waters; while upon its surface floated grim spectre-like shapes, which, as they went by, sent forth those dismal shrieks I had heard — as if in fear of some awful precipice towards whose brink they were hurrying.

I saw plainly that across that torrent must be my course. It was, indeed, fearful; but in courage and perseverance now lay my only hope. What awaited me on the opposite shore, I knew not; for all there was immersed in impenetrable gloom, nor could the feeble light which I carried send its glimmer half so far. Dismissing, however, all thoughts but that of pressing onward, I sprung from the rock on which I stood into the flood, trusting that, with my right hand, I should be able to buffet the current, while, with the other, as long as a gleam of my brand remained, I might hold it aloft to guide me safely to the shore.

Long, formidable, and almost hopeless was the struggle I had now to maintain; and more than once, overpowered by the rush of the waters, I had given myself up[4], as destined to follow those pale,

[1] "Ces considérations me portent à penser que, dans les mystères, ces phénomènes étoient beaucoup mieux exécutées, et sans comparaison plus terribles à l'aide de quelque composition pyrique, qui est restée cachée, comme celle du feu Grégeois."—*De Pauw.*

[2] "Il n'y a point d'autre moyen que de porter le feu dans ces forêts de roseaux, qui répandent alors dans tout le païs une lumière aussi considérable que celle du jour même."—*Maillet*, tom. i. p. 63.

[3] The Nile, *Pliny* tells us, was admitted into the Pyramid.

[4] "On exerçoit," says *Dupuis*, "les recipiendaires, pendant plusieurs jours, à traverser, à la nage, une grande étendue

death-like apparitions, that still went past me, hurrying onward, with mournful cries, to find their doom in some invisible gulf beyond.

At length, just as my strength was nearly exhausted, and the last remains of the pine branch were dropping from my hand, I saw, outstretching towards me into the water, a light double balustrade, with a flight of steps between, ascending, almost perpendicularly, from the wave, till they seemed lost in a dense mass of clouds above. This glimpse — for it was nothing more, as my light expired in giving it — lent new spring to my courage. Having now both hands at liberty, so desperate were my efforts, that, after a few minutes' struggle, I felt my brow strike against the stairway, and, in an instant, my feet were on the steps.

Rejoiced at my escape from that perilous flood, though I knew not whither the stairway led, I promptly ascended the steps. But this feeling of confidence was of short duration. I had not mounted far, when, to my horror, I perceived, that each successive step, as my foot left it, broke away from beneath me, leaving me in mid-air, with no other alternative than that of still mounting by the same momentary footing, and with the appalling doubt whether it would even endure my tread.

And thus did I, for a few seconds, continue to ascend, with nothing beneath me but that awful river, in which — so tranquil had it now become — I could hear the plash of the falling fragments, as every step in succession gave way from under my feet. It was a most fearful moment — but even still worse remained. I now found the balustrade, by which I had held during my ascent, and which had hitherto appeared to be firm, growing tremulous in my hand, while the step, to which I was about to trust myself, tottered under my foot. Just then, a momentary flash, as if of lightning, broke around me; and I saw, hanging out of the clouds, so as to be barely within my reach, a huge brazen ring. Instinctively I stretched forth my arm to seize it, and, at the same instant, both balustrade and steps gave way beneath me, and I was left swinging by my hands in the dark void. As if, too, this massy ring, which I grasped, was by some magic power linked with all the winds in heaven, no sooner had I seized it than, like the touching of a spring, it seemed to give loose to every variety of gusts and tempests, that ever strewed the sea-shore with wrecks or dead; and, as I swung about, the sport of this elemental strife, every new burst of its fury threatened to shiver me, like a storm-sail, to atoms!

Nor was even this the worst; — for, still holding, I know not how, by the ring, I felt myself caught up, as if by a thousand whirlwinds, and then round and round, like a stone-shot in a sling, continued to be whirled in the midst of all this deafening chaos, till my brain grew dizzy, my recollection became confused, and I almost fancied myself on that wheel of the infernal world, whose rotations Eternity alone can number!

Human strength could no longer sustain such a trial. I was on the point, at last, of loosing my hold, when suddenly the violence of the storm moderated; — my whirl through the air gradually ceased, and I felt the ring slowly descend with me, till — happy as a shipwrecked mariner at the first touch of land — I found my feet once more upon firm ground.

At the same moment, a light of the most delicious softness filled the whole air. Music, such as is heard in dreams, came floating at a distance; and as my eyes gradually recovered their powers of vision, a scene of glory was revealed to them, almost too bright for imagination, and yet living and real. As far as the sight could reach, enchanting gardens were seen, opening away through long tracts of light and verdure, and sparkling every where with fountains, that circulated, like streams of life, among the flowers. Not a charm was here wanting, that the fancy of poet or prophet, in their warmest pictures of Elysium, have ever yet dreamed or promised. Vistas, opening into scenes of indistinct grandeur — streams, shining out at intervals, in their shadowy course — and labyrinths of flowers, leading, by mysterious windings, to green, spacious glades full of splendour and repose. Over all this, too, there fell a light, from some unseen source, resembling nothing that illumines our upper world — a sort of golden moonlight, mingling the warm radiance of day with the calm and melancholy lustre of night.

Nor were there wanting inhabitants for this sunless Paradise. Through all the bright gardens were seen wandering, with the serene air and step of happy spirits, groups both of young and old, of venerable and of lovely forms, bearing, most of them, the Nile's white flowers on their heads, and branches of the eternal palm in their hands; while, over the verdant turf, fair children and maidens went dancing to aërial music, whose source was,

d'eau. On les y jettoit, et ce n'étoit qu'avec peine qu'ils s'en retiroient. On appliquoit le fer et le feu sur leurs membres. On les faisoit passer à travers les flammes."

The aspirants were often in considerable danger, and Pythagoras, we are told, nearly lost his life in the trials. Vide *Recherches sur les Initiations, par Robin.*

like that of the light, invisible, but which filled the whole air with its mystic sweetness.

Exhausted as I was by the painful trials I had undergone, no sooner did I perceive those fair groups in the distance, than my weariness, both of frame and spirit, was forgotten. A thought crossed me that she, whom I sought, might haply be among them; and notwithstanding the feeling of awe, with which that unearthly scene inspired me, I was about to fly, on the instant, to ascertain my hope. But while in the act of making the effort, I felt my robe gently pulled, and turning round, beheld an aged man before me, whom, by the sacred hue of his garb, I knew at once to be a Hierophant. Placing a branch of the consecrated palm in my hand, he said, in a solemn voice, "Aspirant of the Mysteries, welcome!" — then, regarding me for a few seconds with grave attention, added, in a tone of courteousness and interest, "The victory over the body hath been gained! — Follow me, young Greek, to thy resting-place."

I obeyed the command in silence — and the Priest, turning away from this scene of splendour, into a secluded pathway, where the light gradually faded as we advanced, led me to a small pavilion, by the side of a whispering stream, where the very spirit of slumber seemed to preside, and, pointing silently to a bed of dried poppy-leaves, left me to repose.

CHAPTER VIII.

THOUGH the sight of that splendid scene, whose glories opened upon me like a momentary glimpse into another world, had, for an instant, re-animated my strength and spirit, yet, so completely was my whole frame subdued by fatigue, that, even had the form of the young Priestess herself then stood before me, my limbs would have sunk in the effort to reach her. No sooner had I fallen on my leafy couch, than sleep, like a sudden death, came over me; and I lay, for hours, in that deep and motionless rest, which not even a shadow of life disturbs.

On awaking I saw, beside me, the same venerable personage, who had welcomed me to this subterranean world on the preceding night. At the foot of my couch stood a statue, of Grecian workmanship, representing a boy, with wings, seated gracefully on a lotus-flower, and having the forefinger of his right hand pressed to his lips. This action, together with the glory round his brows, denoted, as I already knew, the God of Silence and Light.[1]

Impatient to know what further trials awaited me, I was about to speak, when the Priest exclaimed, anxiously, "Hush!" — and, pointing to the statue at the foot of the couch, said, — "Let the spell of that Spirit be upon thy lips, young stranger, till the wisdom of thy instructors shall think fit to remove it. Not unaptly doth the same deity preside over Silence and Light; since it is only out of the depth of contemplative silence, that the great light of the soul, Truth, can arise!"

Little used to the language of dictation or instruction, I was now preparing to rise, when the Priest again restrained me; and, at the same moment, two boys, beautiful as the young Genii of the stars, entered the pavilion. They were habited in long garments of the purest white, and bore each a small golden chalice in his hand.[2] Advancing towards me, they stopped on opposite sides of the couch, and one of them, presenting to me his chalice of gold, said, in a tone between singing and speaking, —

"Drink of this cup — Osiris[3] sips
The same in his halls below;
And the same he gives, to cool the lips
Of the Dead[4] who downward go.

"Drink of this cup — the water within
Is fresh from Lethe's stream;
'Twill make the past, with all its sin,
And all its pain and sorrows, seem
Like a long-forgotten dream!

"The pleasure, whose charms
Are steep'd in woe;
The knowledge, that harms
The soul to know;

"The hope, that, bright
As the lake of the waste,
Allures the sight,
But mocks the taste;

"The love, that binds
Its innocent wreath,
Where the serpent winds,
In venom, beneath; —

"All that, of evil or false, by thee
Hath ever been known or seen,
Shall melt away in this cup, and be
Forgot, as it never had been!"

Unwilling to throw a slight on this strange ceremony, I leaned forward, with all due gravity, and tasted the cup; which I had no sooner done

[1] Enfin Harpocrate étoit assis sur le lotus, qui est la plante du Soleil." *Hist. des Juifs.*

[2] For the two cups used in the mysteries, see *L'Histoire des Juifs*, liv. ix. c. 16.

[3] *Osiris*, under the name of Serapis, was supposed to rule over the subterranean world; and performed the office of Pluto, in the mythology of the Egyptians. "They believed," says Dr. Prichard, "that Sepis presided over the region of departed souls, during the period of their absence; when languishing without bodies, and that the dead were deposited in his palace." *Analysis of the Egyptian Mythology.*

[4] "Frigidam illam aquam post mortem, tanquam Hebes poculum, expetitam." *Zoega.* — Tho Lethe of the Egyptians was called Ameles. See *Dupuis*, tom. viii. p. 651.

than the young cup-bearer, on the other side[1], invited my attention; and, in his turn, presenting the chalice which he held, sung, with a voice still sweeter than that of his companion, the following strain:—

"Drink of this cup—when Isis led
Her boy, of old, to the beaming sky,
She mingled a draught divine[2], and said—
'Drink of this cup, thou'lt never die!'

"Thus do I say and sing to thee,
Heir of that boundless heaven on high,
Though frail, and fall'n, and lost thou be,
Drink of this cup, thou'lt never die!"

Well as I had hitherto kept my philosophy on its guard against the illusions with which, I knew, this region abounded, the young cup-bearer had here touched a spring of imagination, over which my philosophy, as has been seen, had but little control. No sooner had the words, "thou shalt never die," struck on my ear, than the dream of the Garden came fully to my mind; and, starting half-way from the couch, I stretched forth my hands to the cup. But, recollecting myself instantly, and fearing that I had betrayed to others a weakness fit only for my own secret indulgence, I sunk back again, with a smile of affected indifference on my couch—while the young minstrel, but little interrupted by my movement, still continued his strain, of which I heard but the concluding words:—

"And Memory, too, with her dreams shall come,
Dreams of a former, happier day,
When Heaven was still the Spirit's home,
And her wings had not yet fallen away;

"Glimpses of glory, ne'er forgot,
That tell, like gleams on a sunset sea,
What once hath been, what now is not,
But, oh! what again shall brightly be."

Though the assurances of immortality contained in these verses would at any other moment—vain and visionary as I thought them—have sent my fancy wandering into reveries of the future, the effort of self-control I had just made enabled me to hear them with indifference.

Having gone through the form of tasting his second cup, I again looked anxiously to the Hierophant, to ascertain whether I might be permitted to rise. His assent having been given, the young pages brought to my couch a robe and tunic, which, like their own, were of linen of the purest white; and having assisted to clothe me in this sacred garb, they then placed upon my head a chaplet of myrtle, in which the symbol of Initiation, a golden grasshopper[3], was seen shining out from among the dark leaves.

Though sleep had done much to refresh my frame, something more was still wanting to restore its strength; and it was not without a smile at my own reveries I reflected, how much more welcome than even the young page's cup of immortality was the unpretending, but real, repast now set before me—fresh fruits from the Isle of Gardens[4] in the Nile, the delicate flesh of the desert antelope, and wine from the Vineyard of the Queens at Anthylla[5], which one of the pages fanned with a palm-leaf, to keep it cool.

Having done justice to these dainties, it was with pleasure I heard the proposal of the Priest, that we should walk forth together, and meditate among the scenes without. I had not forgotten the splendid Elysium that last night welcomed me—those rich gardens, that soft unearthly music and light, and, above all, those fair forms I had seen wandering about—as if, in the very midst of happiness, still seeking it. The hope, which had then occurred to me, that, among those bright groups might haply be found the young maiden I sought, now returned with increased strength. I had little doubt that my guide was leading me to the same Elysian scene, and that the form, so fit to inhabit it, would again appear before my eyes.

But far different, I found, was the region to which he now conducted me;—nor could the whole world have produced a scene more gloomy, or more strange. It wore the appearance of a small, solitary valley, enclosed, on every side, by rocks, which seemed to rise, almost perpendicularly, till they reached the very sky;—for it was, indeed, the blue sky that I saw shining between their summits, and whose light, dimmed thus and nearly lost in its long descent, formed the melancholy daylight of this nether world.[6] Down the side of these rocky walls descended a cataract, whose source was upon earth, and on whose

[1] "Enfin on disoit qu'il y avoit deux coupes, l'une en haut et l'autre en bas. Celui qui buvoit de la coupe d'en bas, avoit toujours soif, ses désirs s'augmentoit au lieu de s'éteindre; mais celui qui buvoit de la coupe en haut, étoit rempli et content. Cette première coup étoit la connoissance de la Nature, qui ne satisfait jamais pleinement ceux qui en sondent les mystères; et la seconde coupe, dans laquelle on devoit boire pour n'avoir jamais soif, étoit la connoissance des mystères du Ciel." *Hist. des Juifs*, liv. ix. chap. 16.

[2] The τῆς ἀθανασιας φαρμακον, which, according to Diodorus Siculus, Isis prepared for her son Orus.—Lib. i.

[3] *Hor. Apoll.*—The grasshopper was also consecrated to the sun, as being musical.

[4] The isle Antirrhodus, near Alexandria. *Maillett.*

[5] Vide *Athen. Deipnos.*

[6] "On s'étoit même avisé, depuis la première construction de ces demeures, de percer en plusieurs endroits jusqu'au haut les terres qui les couvroient; non pas, à la vérité, pour tirer un jour qui n'auroit jamais été suffisant, mais pour recevoir un air salutaire," &c. *Séthos.*

waters, as they rolled glassily over the edge above, a gleam of radiance rested, showing how brilliant and pure was the sunshine they had left behind. From thence, gradually growing darker, and frequently broken by alternate chasms and projections, the stream fell, at last, in a pale and thin mist—the phantom of what it had been on earth—into a small lake that lay at the base of the rock to receive it.

Nothing was ever so bleak and saddening as the appearance of this lake. The usual ornaments of the waters of Egypt were not wanting to it: the tall lotus here uplifted her silvery flowers, and the crimson flamingo floated over the tide. But they looked not the same as in the world above;—the flower had exchanged its whiteness for a livid hue, and the wings of the bird hung heavy and colourless. Every thing wore the same half-living aspect; and the only sounds that disturbed the mournful stillness were the wailing cry of a heron among the sedges, and that din of the falling waters, in their midway struggle, above.

There was, indeed, an unearthly sadness in the whole scene, of which no heart, however light, could resist the influence. Perceiving how much I was affected by it, "Such scenes," remarked the Priest, "are best suited to that solemn complexion of mind, which becomes him who approaches the Great Mystery of futurity. Behold"—and, in saying thus he pointed to the opening over our heads, through which, though the sun had but just passed his meridian, I could perceive a star or two twinkling in the heavens—"in the same manner as from this gloomy depth we can see those fixed stars [1], which are invisible now to the dwellers on the bright earth, even so, to the sad and self-humbled spirit, doth many a mystery of heaven reveal itself, of which they, who walk in the light of the proud world, know not!"

He now led me towards a rustic seat or alcove, beside which stood an image of that dark Deity [2], that God without a smile, who presides over the silent kingdom of the Dead.[3] The same livid and lifeless hue was upon his features, that hung over every thing in this dim valley; and, with his right hand, he pointed directly downwards, to denote that his melancholy kingdom lay there. A plantain [4]—that favourite tree of the genii of Death—stood behind the statue, and spread its branches over the alcove, in which the Priest now seated himself, and made a sign that I should take my place by his side.

After a long pause, as if of thought and preparation,—"Nobly," said he, "young Greek, hast thou sustained the first trials of Initiation. What still remains, though of vital import to the soul, brings with it neither pain nor peril to the body. Having now proved and chastened thy mortal frame by the three ordeals of Fire, of Water, and of Air, the next task to which we are called is the purification of thy spirit—the effectual cleansing of that inward and immortal part, so as to render it fit for the reception of the last luminous revealment, when the Veils of the Sanctuary shall be thrown aside, and the Great Secret of Secrets unfolded to thy view!—Towards this object, the primary and most important step is, instruction. What the three purifying elements thou hast passed through have done for thy body, instruction will effect for——"

"But that lovely maiden!" I exclaimed, bursting from my silence, having fallen, during his speech, into a deep reverie, in which I had forgotten him, myself, the Great Secret, every thing—but her.

Startled by this profane interruption, he cast a look of alarm towards the statue, as if fearful lest the God should have heard my words. Then, turning to me, in a tone of mild solemnity, "It is but too plain," said he, "that thoughts of the upper world, and of its vain, shadowy delights, still engross thee far too much, to allow the lessons of Truth to sink profitably into thy heart. A few hours of meditation amid this solemn scenery—of that wholesome meditation, which purifies, by saddening—may haply dispose thee to receive, with due feelings of reverence, the holy and imperishable knowledge we have in store for thee. With this hope I now leave thee to thy own thoughts, and to that God, before whose calm and mournful eye all the vanities of the world, from which thou comest, wither!"

Thus saying, he turned slowly away, and passing behind the statue, towards which he had pointed during the last sentence, suddenly, and, as if by enchantment, disappeared from my sight.

[1] "On voyoit en plein jour par ces ouvertures les étoiles, et même quelques planètes en leur plus grande latitude septentrionale; et les prêtres avoient bientôt profité de ce phénomène, pour observer à diverses heures le passage des étoiles." *Séthos.*—*Strabo* mentions certain caves, or pits, constructed for the purpose of astronomical observations, which lay in the Heliopolitan prefecture, beyond Heliopolis.

[2] *Serapis*, Sol Inferus.—Athenodorus, scriptor vetustus, apud Clementem Alexandrinum in *Protreptico*, ait "simulacra Serapidis conspicua esse colore cæruleo et nigricante." Macrobius, in verbis descriptis, § 6. docet nos apud Ægyptios "simulacra solis infera fingi colore cæruleo." *Jablonski.*

[3] Osiris.

[4] This tree was dedicated to the Genii of the Shades, from its being an emblem of repose and cooling airs. "Cui imminet musæ folium, quod ab Iside infera geniisque ei addictis manu geri solitum, umbram requiemque et auras frigidas subindigitare videtur." *Zoega.*

CHAPTER IX.

Being now left to my own solitary thoughts, I was fully at leisure to reflect, with some degree of coolness, upon the inconveniences, if not dangers, of the situation into which my love of adventure had hurried me. However prompt my imagination was always to kindle, in its own ideal sphere, I have ever found that, when brought into contact with reality, it as suddenly cooled;—like those meteors, that appear to be stars, while in the air, but the moment they touch earth, are extinguished. And such was the feeling of disenchantment that now succeeded to the wild dreams in which I had been indulging. As long as Fancy had the field of the future to herself, even immortality did not seem too distant a race for her. But when human instruments interposed, the illusion all vanished. From mortal lips the promise of immortality seemed a mockery, and even imagination had no wings that could carry beyond the grave.

Nor was this disappointment the only feeling that pained and haunted me;—the imprudence of the step, on which I had ventured, now appeared in its full extent before my eyes. I had here thrown myself into the power of the most artful priesthood in the world, without even a chance of being able to escape from their toils, or to resist any machinations with which they might beset me. It appeared evident, from the state of preparation in which I had found all that wonderful apparatus, by which the terrors and splendours of Initiation are produced, that my descent into the pyramid was not unexpected. Numerous, indeed, and active as were the spies of the Sacred College of Memphis, it could little be doubted that all my movements, since my arrival, had been watchfully tracked; and the many hours I had employed in wandering and exploring around the pyramid, betrayed a curiosity and spirit of adventure which might well suggest to these wily priests the hope of inveigling an Epicurean into their toils.

I was well aware of their hatred to the sect of which I was Chief;—that they considered the Epicureans as, next to the Christians, the most formidable enemies of their craft and power. "How thoughtless, then," I exclaimed, "to have placed myself in a situation, where I am equally helpless against fraud and violence, and must either pretend to be the dupe of their impostures, or else submit to become the victim of their vengeance!" Of these alternatives, bitter as they both were, the latter appeared by far the more welcome. It was with a blush that I even looked back upon the mockeries I had already yielded to; and the prospect of being put through still further ceremonials, and of being tutored and preached to by hypocrites whom I so much despised, appeared to me, in my present mood of mind, a trial of patience, compared to which the flames and whirlwinds I had already encountered were pastime.

Often and impatiently did I look up, between those rocky walls, to the bright sky that appeared to rest upon their summits, as, pacing round and round, through every part of the valley, I endeavoured to find some outlet from its gloomy precincts. But vain were all my endeavours;—that rocky barrier, which seemed to end but in heaven, interposed itself every where. Neither did the image of the young maiden, though constantly in my mind, now bring with it the least consolation or hope. Of what avail was it that she perhaps, was an inhabitant of this region, if I could neither behold her smile, nor catch the sound of her voice—if, while among preaching priests I wasted away my hours, her presence was, alas, diffusing its enchantment elsewhere.

At length, exhausted, I lay down by the brink of the lake, and gave myself up to all the melancholy of my fancy. The pale semblance of daylight, which had hitherto glimmered around, grew, every moment, more dim and dismal. Even the rich gleam, at the summit of the cascade, had faded; and the sunshine, like the water, exhausted in its descent, had now dwindled into a ghostly glimmer, far worse than darkness. The birds upon the lake, as if about to die with the dying light, sunk down their heads; and, as I looked to the statue, the deepening shadows gave such an expression to its mournful features as chilled my very soul.

The thought of death, ever ready to present itself to my imagination, now came, with a disheartening weight, such as I had never before felt. I almost fancied myself already in the dark vestibule of the grave—removed, for ever, from the world above, and with nothing but the blank of an eternal sleep before me. It had happened, I knew, frequently, that the visitants of this mysterious realm were, after their descent from earth, never seen or heard of;—being condemned, for some failure in their initiatory trials, to pine away their lives in those dark dungeons, with which, as well as with altars, this region abounded. Such, I shuddered to think, might probably be my own destiny; and so appalling was the thought, that even the courage by which I had been hitherto sustained died within me, and I was already giving myself up to helplessness and despair.

At length, after some hours of this gloomy

musing, I heard a rustling in the sacred grove behind the statue; and, soon after, the sound of the Priest's voice—more welcome than I had ever thought such voice could be—brought the assurance that I was not yet wholly abandoned. Finding his way to me through the gloom, he now led me to the same spot, on which we had parted so many hours before; and, addressing me in a voice that retained no trace of displeasure, bespoke my attention, while he should reveal to me some of those divine truths, by whose infusion, he said, into the soul of man, its purification can alone be effected.

The valley had now become so dark, that we could no longer, as we sat, discern each other's faces. There was a melancholy in the voice of my instructor that well accorded with the gloom around us: and, saddened and subdued, I now listened with resignation, if not with interest, to those sublime, but, alas, I thought, vain tenets, which, with all the warmth of a true believer, this Hierophant expounded to me.

He spoke of the pre-existence of the soul [1]—of its abode, from all eternity, in a place of splendour and bliss, of which whatever we have most beautiful in our conceptions here is but a dim transcript, a clouded remembrance. In the blue depths of ether, he said, lay that "Country of the Soul"—its boundary alone visible in the line of milky light, which, as by a barrier of stars, separates it from the dark earth. "Oh, realm of purity! Home of the yet unfallen Spirit!—where, in the days of her first innocence, she wandered; ere yet her beauty was soiled by the touch of earth, or her resplendent wings had withered away. Methinks I see," he cried, "at this moment, those fields of radiance [2]—I look back, through the mists of life, into that luminous world, where the souls that have never lost their high, heavenly rank, still soar, without a stain, above the shadowless stars, and there dwell together in infinite perfection and bliss!"

As he spoke these words, a burst of pure, brilliant light [3], like a sudden opening of heaven, broke through the valley; and, as soon as my eyes were able to endure the splendour, such a vision of glory and loveliness opened upon them, as took even my sceptical spirit by surprise, and made it yield, at once, to the potency of the spell.

Suspended, as I thought, in air, and occupying the whole of the opposite region of the valley, there appeared an immense orb of light, within which, through a haze of radiance, I could see distinctly fair groups of young female spirits, who, in silent, but harmonious movement, like that of the stars, wound slowly through a variety of fanciful evolutions; seeming, as they linked and unlinked each other's arms, to form a living labyrinth of beauty and grace. Though their feet appeared to glide along a field of light, they had also wings, of the most brilliant hue, which like rainbows over waterfalls, when played with by the breeze, reflected, every moment, a new variety of glory.

As I stood, gazing with wonder, the orb, with all its ethereal inmates, began gradually to recede into the dark void, lessening, as it went, and becoming more bright, as it lessened;—till, at length, distant, to all appearance, as a retiring comet, this little world of Spirits, in one small point of intense radiance, shone its last and vanished. "Go," exclaimed the rapt Priest, "ye happy souls, of whose dwelling a glimpse is thus given to our eyes,—go, wander, in your orb, through the boundless heaven, nor ever let a thought of this perishable world come to mingle its dross with your divine nature, or allure you down earthward to that mortal fall by which spirits, no less bright and admirable, have been ruined!"

A pause ensued, during which, still under the influence of wonder, I sent my fancy wandering after the inhabitants of that orb—almost wishing myself credulous enough to believe in a heaven, of which creatures, so much like those I had worshipped on earth, were inmates.

At length, the Priests, with a mournful sigh at the sad contrast he was about to draw between the happy spirits we had just seen and the fallen ones of earth, resumed again his melancholy History of the Soul. Tracing it gradually, from the first moment of earthward desire [4] to its final eclipse in

[1] For a full account of the doctrines which are here represented as having been taught to the initiated in the Egyptian mysteries, the reader may consult *Dupuis*, *Prichard's Analysis of the Egyptian Mythology*, &c. &c. "L'on découvroit l'origine de l'âme, sa chute sur la terre, à travers les sphères et les élémens, et son retour au lieu de son origine .... c'étoit ici la partie la plus métaphysique, et que ne pourroit guère entendre le commun des Initiés, mais dont on lui donnoit le spectacle par des figures et des spectres allégoriques." *Dupuis*.

[2] See *Beausobre*, lib. iii. c. 4., for the "terre bienheureuse et lumineuse," which the Manicheans supposed God to inhabit. Plato, too, speaks (in Phæd.) of a pure land lying in the pure sky (*την γην καθαραν εν καθαρῳ κεισθαι ουρανῳ*), the abode of divinity, of innocence, and of life."

[3] The power of producing a sudden and dazzling effusion of light, which was one of the arts employed by the contrivers of the ancient Mysteries, is thus described in a few words by Apuleius, who was himself admitted to witness the Isiac ceremonies at Corinth:—"Nocte mediâ vidi solem candido coruscantem lumine."

[4] In the original construction of this work, there was an episode introduced here (which I have since published in a more extended form), illustrating the doctrine of the fall of the soul by the Oriental fable of the Loves of the Angels.

the shadows of this world, he dwelt upon every stage of its darkening descent, with a pathos that sent sadness into the very depths of the heart. The first downward look of the spirit towards earth — the tremble of her wings on the edge of Heaven — the giddy slide, at length, down that fatal descent — and the Leathern cup, midway in the sky, of which when she has once tasted, Heaven is forgot — through all these gradations he traced mournfully her fall, to that last stage of darkness, when wholly immersed in this world, her celestial nature becomes changed, she no longer can rise above earth, nor even remember her former home, except by glimpses so vague, that, at length, mistaking for hope what is only, alas! recollection, she believes those gleams to be a light from the Future, not the Past.

"To retrieve this ruin of the once-blessed Soul — to clear away from around her the clouds of earth, and restoring her lost wings [1], facilitate their return to Heaven — such," said the reverend man, "is the great task of our religion, and such the triumph of those divine Mysteries, in whose inmost depths the life and essence of that holy religion lie treasured. However sunk, and changed, and clouded may be the Spirit, yet as long as a single trace of her original light remains, there is still hope that ——"

Here the voice of the Priest was interrupted by a strain of mournful music, of which the low, distant breathings had been, for some minutes, audible, but which now gained upon the ear too thrillingly to let it listen to any more earthly sound. A faint light, too, at that instant broke through the valley — and I could perceive, not far from the spot where we sat, a female figure, veiled, and crouching to earth, as if subdued by sorrow, or under the influence of shame.

The feeble light, by which I saw her, came from a pale, moonlike meteor which had gradually formed itself in the air as the music approached, and now shed over the rocks and the lake a glimmer as cold as that by which the Dead, in their own kingdom, gaze upon each other. The music, too, which appeared to rise from out of the lake, full of the breath of its dark waters, spoke a despondency in every note which no language could express; — and as I listened to its tones, and looked upon that fallen Spirit, (for such, the holy man whispered, was the form before us,) so entirely did the illusion of the scene take possession of me [2], that, with almost painful anxiety, I now awaited the result.

Nor had I gazed long before that form rose slowly from its drooping position; — the air around it grew bright, and the pale meteor overhead assumed a more cheerful and living light. The veil, which had before shrouded the face of the figure, became every minute more transparent, and the features, one by one, gradually disclosed themselves. Having tremblingly watched the progress of the apparition, I now started from my seat, and half exclaimed, "It is she!" In another minute, this veil had, like a thin mist, melted away, and the young priestess of the Moon stood, for the third time, revealed before my eyes!

To rush instantly towards her was my first impulse — but the arm of the Priest held me firmly back. The fresh light, which had begun to flow in from all sides, collected itself in a flood of glory around the spot where she stood. Instead of melancholy music, strains of the most exalted rapture were heard; and the young maiden, buoyant as the inhabitants of the fairy orb, amid a blaze of light like that which fell upon her in the Temple, ascended slowly into the air.

"Stay, beautiful vision, stay!" I exclaimed, as, breaking from the hold of the Priest, I flung myself prostrate on the ground — the only mode by which I could express the admiration, even to worship, with which I was filled. But the vanishing spirit heard me not: — receding into the darkness, like that orb, whose heavenward track she seemed to follow, her form lessened by degrees away, till she was seen no more; while, gazing, till the last luminous speck had disappeared, I allowed myself unconsciously to be led away by my reverend guide, who, placing me once more on my bed of poppy-leaves, left me there to such repose as it was possible, after such a scene, to enjoy.

[1] In the language of Plato, Hierocles, &c., to "restore to the soul its wings," is the main object both of religion and philosophy.

Damascius, in his Life of Isidorus, says, "Ex antiquissimis Philosophis Pythagoram et Platonem Isidorus ut Deos coluit, et *eorum animas alatas esse* dixit quas in locum supercœlestem inque campum veritatis et pratum elevatas, divinis putavit ideis pasci." *Apud Phot. Bibliothec.*

[2] In tracing the early connexion of spectacles with the ceremonies of religion, *Voltaire* says, "Il y a bien plus; les véritables grandes tragédies, les représentations imposantes et terribles, étoient les mystères sacrés, qu'on célébroit dans les plus vastes temples du monde, en présence des seuls Initiés; c'étoit là que les habits, les décorations, les machines étoient propres au sujet; et le sujet étoit la vie présente et la vie future." *Des divers Changemens arrivés à l'Art tragique.*

To these scenic representations in the Egyptian mysteries, there is evidently an allusion in the vision of Ezekiel, where the Spirit shows him the abominations which the Israelites had learned in Egypt: — "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in *the chambers of his imagery?*" Chap. viii.

CHAPTER X.

THE apparition with which I had been blessed in that Valley of Visions — for so the place where I had witnessed these wonders was called — brought back to my heart all the hopes and fancies in which, during my descent from earth, I had indulged. I had now seen once more that matchless creature, who had been my guiding star into this mysterious realm; and that she was destined to be, in some way, connected with the further revelations that awaited me, I saw no reason to doubt. There was a sublimity, too, in the doctrines of my reverend teacher, and even a hope in the promises of immortality held out by him, which, in spite of reason, won insensibly both upon my fancy and my pride.

The Future, however, was now but of secondary consideration; — the Present, and that deity of the Present, woman, were the objects that engrossed my whole soul. It was, indeed, for the sake of such beings alone that I considered immortality desirable, nor, without them, would eternal life have appeared to me worth a single prayer. To every further trial of my patience and faith, I now made up my mind to submit without a murmur. Some kind chance, I fondly persuaded myself, might yet bring me nearer to the object of my adoration, and enable me to address, as mortal woman, one who had hitherto been to me but as a vision, a shade.

The period of my probation, however, was nearly at an end. Both frame and spirit had now stood the trial; and as the crowning test of the purification of the latter was that power of seeing into the world of spirits, with which I had proved myself, in the Valley of Visions, to be endowed, there now remained, to complete my Initiation, but this one night more, when, in the Temple of Isis, and in the presence of her unveiled image, the last grand revelation of the Secret of Secrets was to be laid open to me.

I passed the morning of this day in company with the same venerable personage, who had, from the first, presided over the ceremonies of my instruction; and who, to inspire me with due reverence for the power and magnificence of his religion, now conducted me through the long range of illuminated galleries and shrines, that extend under the site upon which Memphis and the Pyramids stand, and form a counterpart under ground to that mighty city of temples upon earth.

He then descended with me, still lower, into those winding crypts, where lay the Seven Tables of stone[1], found by Hermes in the valley of Hebron. "On these tables," said he, "is written all the knowledge of the antediluvian race — the decrees of the stars from the beginning of time, the annals of a still earlier world, and all the marvellous secrets, both of heaven and earth, which would have been,

> 'but for this key,
> Lost in the Universal Sea.'"

Returning to the region, from which we had descended, we next visited, in succession, a series of small shrines representing the various objects of adoration throughout Egypt, and thus furnishing to the Priest an occasion for explaining the mysterious nature of animal worship, and the refined doctrines of theology that lay veiled under its forms. Every shrine was consecrated to a particular faith, and contained a living image of the deity which it adored. Beside the goat of Mendes with his refulgent star upon his breast, I saw th crocodile, as presented to the eyes of its idolater at Arsinoë, with costly gems[3] in its loathsome ears, and rich bracelets of gold encircling its feet. Here, floating through a tank in the centre of a temple, the sacred carp of Lepidotum showed its silvery scales; while, there, the Isiac serpents[4] trailed languidly over the altar, with that sort of movement which is thought most favourable to the aspirations of their votaries. In one of the small chapels we found a beautiful child, employed in feeding and watching over those golden beetles, which are adored for their brightness, as emblems of the sun; while, in another, stood a sacred ibis upon its pedestal, so like, in plumage and attitude, to the bird of the young Priestess, that most gladly would I have knelt down and worshipped it for her sake.

After visiting all these various shrines, and hearing the reflections which they suggested, I was next led by my guide to the Great Hall of the Zodiac, on whose ceiling was delineated, in bright and undying colours, the map of the firmament, as it appeared at the first dawn of time. Here, in pointing out the track of the sun among the spheres, he spoke of the analogy that exists between moral and phy-

[1] "Bernard, Comte de la Marche-Trévisane, instruit par la lecture des livres anciens, dit, que Hermes trouva sept tables dans la vallée d'Hébron, sur lesquelles étoient gravés les principes des arts libéraux." *Fables Egyptiennes.* See *Jablonski de stelis Herm.*

[2] For an account of the animal worship of the Egyptians, see *De Pauw*, tom. ii.

[3] Herodotus (*Euterp.*) tells us that the people about Thebes and Lake Mœris kept a number of tame crocodiles, which they worshipped, and dressed them out with gems and golden ornaments in their ears.

[4] "On auguroit bien de serpens isiaques, lorsqu'ils goûtoient l'offrande et se trainoient lentement autour de l'autel." *De Pauw.*

sical darkness—of the sympathy with which all spiritual creatures regard the sun, so as to sadden and decline when he sinks into his wintry hemisphere, and to rejoice when he resumes his own empire of light. Hence, the festivals and hymns, with which most of the nations of the earth are wont to welcome the resurrection of his orb in spring, as an emblem and pledge of the re-ascent of the soul to heaven. Hence, the songs of sorrow, the mournful ceremonies[1]—like those Mysteries of the Night[2], upon the Lake of Saïs—in which they brood over its autumnal descent into the shades, as a type of the Spirit's fall into this world of death.

In discourses such as these the hours passed away; and though there was nothing in the light of this sunless region to mark to the eye the decline of day, my own feelings told me that the night drew near;—nor, in spite of my incredulity, could I refrain from a slight flutter of hope, as that promised moment of revelation drew nigh, when the Mystery of Mysteries was to be made all my own. This consummation, however, was less near than I expected. My patience had still further trials to encounter. It was necessary, I now found, that, during the greater part of the night, I should keep watch in the Sanctuary of the Temple, alone and in utter darkness—thus preparing myself, by meditation, for the awful moment, when the irradiation from behind the sacred Veils was to burst upon me.

At the appointed hour, we left the Hall of the Zodiac, and proceeded through a long line of marble galleries, where the lamps were more thinly scattered as we advanced, till, at length, we found ourselves in total darkness. Here the Priest, taking me by the hand, and leading me down a flight of steps, into a place where the same deep gloom prevailed, said, with a voice trembling, as if from excess of awe,—"Thou art now within the Sanctuary of our goddess, Isis, and the veils, that conceal her sacred image, are before thee!"

After exhorting me earnestly to that train of thought, which best accorded with the spirit of the place where I stood, and, above all, to that full and unhesitating faith, with which alone, he said, the manifestation of such mysteries should be approached, the holy man took leave of me, and reascended the steps;—while, so spell-bound did I feel by that deep darkness, that the last sound of his footsteps died upon my ear, before I ventured to stir a limb from the position in which he had left me.

The prospect of the long watch I had now to look forward to was dreadful. Even danger itself, if in an active form, would have been far preferable to this sort of safe, but dull, probation, by which patience was the only virtue put to the proof. Having ascertained how far the space around me was free from obstacles, I endeavoured to beguile the time by pacing up and down within those limits, till I became tired of the monotonous echoes of my own tread. Finding my way, then, to what I felt to be a massive pillar, and, leaning wearily against it, I surrendered myself to a train of thoughts and feelings, far different from those with which the good Hierophant had hoped to inspire me.

"If these priests," thought I, "possess really the secret of life, why are they themselves the victims of death? why sink into the grave with the cup of immortality in their hands? But no, safe boasters, the eternity they so lavishly promise is reserved for *another*, a future world—that ready resource of all priestly promises—that depository of the airy pledges of all creeds. Another world!—alas! where doth it lie? or, what spirit hath ever come to say that Life is there?"

The conclusion at which, half sadly, half passionately, I arrived, was that, life being but a dream of the moment never to come again, every bliss so vaguely promised for hereafter ought to be secured by the wise man here. And, as no heaven I had ever heard of from these visionary priests opened half such certainty of happiness as that smile which I beheld last night—"Let me," I exclaimed, impatiently, striking the massy pillar till it rung, "let me but make that beautiful Priestess my own, and I here willingly exchange for her every chance of immortality, that the combined wisdom of Egypt's Twelve Temples can offer me!"

No sooner had I uttered these words, than a tremendous peal, like that of thunder[3], rolled over the Sanctuary, and seemed to shake its very walls. On every side, too, a succession of blue, vivid flashes pierced, like lances of light, through the gloom, revealing to me, at intervals, the mighty dome in which I stood—its ceiling of azure, studded with stars—its colossal columns, towering aloft,—and those dark, awful veils, whose massy drapery hung from the roof to the floor, covering the rich glories of the Shrine beneath their folds.

[1] For an account of the various festivals at the different periods of the sun's progress, in the spring, and in the autumn, see *Dupuis* and *Prichard*.

[2] Vide *Athenag. Leg. pro Christ.*, p. 138.

[3] See, for some curious remarks on the mode of imitating thunder and lightning in the ancient mysteries, *De Pauw*, tom. i. p. 323. The machine with which these effects were produced on the stage was called a Ceraunoscope.

So weary had I grown of my tedious watch, that this stormy and fitful illumination, during which the Sanctuary seemed to rock to its base, was by no means an unwelcome interruption of the monotonous trial my patience had to suffer. After a short interval, however, the flashes ceased; —the sounds died away, like exhausted thunder, through the abyss, and darkness and silence, like that of the grave, succeeded.

Resting my back once more against the pillar, and fixing my eyes upon that side of the Sanctuary from which the promised irradiation was to burst, I now resolved to await the awful moment in patience. Resigned, and almost immovable, I had remained thus for nearly another hour, when suddenly along the edges of the mighty Veils, I perceived a thin rim of light, as if from some brilliant object under them;—resembling that border which encircles a cloud at sunset, when the rich radiance from behind is escaping at its edges.

This indication of concealed glories grew every instant more strong; till, at last, vividly marked as it was upon the darkness, the narrow fringe of lustre almost pained the eye—giving promise of a fulness of splendour too bright to be endured. My expectations were now wound to the highest pitch, and all the scepticism, into which I had been cooling down my mind, was forgotten. The wonders that had been presented to me since my descent from earth—that glimpse into Elysium on the first night of my coming—those visitants from the land of Spirits in the mysterious valley—all led me to expect, in this last and brightest revelation, such visions of glory and knowledge as might transcend even fancy itself, nor leave a doubt that they belonged less to earth than heaven

While, with an imagination thus excited, I stood waiting the result, an increased gush of light still more awakened my attention; and I saw with an intenseness of interest, which made my heart beat aloud, one of the corners of the mighty Veil raised slowly from the floor. I now felt that the Great Secret, whatever it might be, was at hand. A vague hope even crossed my mind—so wholly had imagination now resumed her empire—that the splendid promise of my dream was on the very point of being realized!

With surprise, however, and, for the moment, with some disappointment, I perceived, that the massy corner of the Veil was but lifted sufficiently from the ground to allow a female figure to emerge from under it—and then fell over its mystic splendours as utterly dark as before. By the strong light, too, that issued when the drapery was raised, and illuminated the profile of the emerging figure, I either saw, or fancied that I saw, the same bright features, that had already so often mocked me with their momentary charm, and seemed destined, indeed, to haunt my fancy as unavailingly as even the fond, vain dream of Immortality itself.

Dazzled as I had been by that short gush of splendour, and distrusting even my senses, when under the influence of so much excitement, I had but just begun to question myself as to the reality of my impression, when I heard the sounds of light footsteps approaching me through the gloom. In a second or two more, the figure stopped before me, and, placing the end of a riband gently in my hand, said, in a tremulous whisper, "Follow, and be silent."

So sudden and strange was the adventure, that, for a moment, I hesitated—fearing that my eyes might possibly have been deceived as to the object they had seen. Casting a look towards the Veil, which seemed bursting with its luminous secret, I was almost doubting to which of the two chances I should commit myself, when I felt the riband in my hand pulled softly at the other extremity. This movement, like a touch of magic, at once decided me. Without any further deliberation, I yielded to the silent summons, and following my guide, who was already at some distance before me, found myself led up the same flight of marble steps, by which the Priest had conducted me into the Sanctuary. Arrived at their summit, I felt the pace of my conductress quicken, and giving one more look to the Veiled Shrine, whose glories we left burning uselessly behind us, hastened onward into the gloom, full of confidence in the belief, that she, who now held the other end of that clue, was one whom I was ready to follow devotedly through the world.

CHAPTER XI.

With such rapidity was I hurried along by my unseen guide, full of wonder at the speed with which she ventured through these labyrinths, that I had but little time left for reflection upon the strangeness of the adventure to which I had committed myself. My knowledge of the character of the Memphian priests, as well as some fearful rumours that had reached me, concerning the fate that often attended unbelievers in their hands, awakened a momentary suspicion of treachery in my mind. But, when I recalled the face of my guide, as I had seen it in the small chapel, with that divine look, the very memory of which brought purity into the heart, I found my sus-

picions all vanish, and felt shame at having harboured them but an instant.

In the mean while, our rapid course continued without any interruption, through windings even more capriciously intricate[1] than any I had yet passed, and whose thick gloom seemed never to have been broken by a single glimmer of light. My unseen conductress was still at some distance before me, and the slight clue, to which I clung as if it were Destiny's own thread, was still kept, by the speed of her course, at full stretch between us. At length, suddenly stopping, she said, in a breathless whisper, "Seat thyself here;" and, at the same moment, led me by the hand to a sort of low car, in which, obeying her brief command, I lost not a moment in placing myself, while the maiden, no less promptly, took her seat by my side.

A sudden click, like the touching of a spring, was then heard, and the car — which, as I had felt in entering it, leaned half-way over a steep descent — on being let loose from its station, shot down, almost perpendicularly, into the darkness, with a rapidity which, at first, nearly deprived me of breath. The wheels slid smoothly and noiselessly in grooves, and the impetus, which the car acquired in descending, was sufficient, I perceived, to carry it up an eminence that succeeded — from the summit of which it again rushed down another declivity, even still more long and precipitous than the former. In this manner we proceeded, by alternate falls and rises, till, at length, from the last and steepest elevation, the car descended upon a level of deep sand, where, after running for a few yards, it by degrees lost its motion, and stopped.

Here the maiden, alighting again, placed the riband in my hands — and again I followed her, though with more slowness and difficulty than before, as our way now led up a flight of damp and time-worn steps, whose ascent seemed to the wearied and insecure foot interminable. Perceiving with what languor my guide advanced, I was on the point of making an effort to assist her progress, when the creak of an opening door above, and a faint gleam of light which, at the same moment, shone upon her figure, apprised me that we were at last arrived within reach of sunshine.

Joyfully I followed through this opening, and, by the dim light, could discern, that we were now in the sanctuary of a vast, ruined temple — having entered by a secret passage under the pedestal, upon which an image of the idol of the place once stood. The first movement of the young maiden, after closing again the portal under the pedestal, was, without even a single look towards me, to cast herself down upon her knees, with her hands clasped and uplifted, as if in thanksgiving or prayer. But she was unable, evidently, to sustain herself in this position;—her strength could hold out no longer. Overcome by agitation and fatigue, she sunk senseless upon the pavement.

Bewildered as I was myself, by the strange events of the night, I stood for some minutes looking upon her in a state of helplessness and alarm. But, reminded, by my own feverish sensations, of the reviving effects of the air, I raised her gently in my arms, and crossing the corridor that surrounded the sanctuary, found my way to the outer vestibule of the Temple. Here, shading her eyes from the sun, I placed her, reclining upon the steps, where the cool north-wind, then blowing freshly between the pillars, might play, with free draught, over her brow.

It was, indeed — as I now saw, with certainty — the same beautiful and mysterious girl, who had been the cause of my descent into that subterranean world, and who now, under such strange and unaccountable circumstances, was my guide back again to the realms of day. I looked around to discover where we were, and beheld such a scene of grandeur, as, could my eyes have been then attracted to any object but the pale form reclining at my side, might well have induced them to dwell on its splendid beauties.

[1] In addition to the accounts which the ancients have left us of the prodigious excavations in all parts of Egypt — the fifteen hundred chambers under the Labyrinth—the subterranean stables of the Thebaïd, containing a thousand horses — the crypts of Upper Egypt passing under the bed of the Nile, &c. &c. — the stories and traditions current among the Arabs still preserve the memory of those wonderful substructions. "Un Arabe," says Paul Lucas, "qui étoit avec nous, m'assura qu'étant entré autrefois dans le Labyrinthe, il avoit marché dans les chambres souterraines jusqu'en un lieu où il y avoit une grande place environnée de plusieurs niches qui ressembloit à de petites boutiques, d'où l'on entroit dans d'autres allées et dans chambres, sans pouvoir en trouver la fin." In speaking, too, of the arcades along the Nile, near Cosseir, "Ils me dirent même que ces souterraines étoient si profondes qu'il y en avoient qui alloient à trois journées de là, et qu'ils conduisoient dans un pays où l'on voyoit de beau jardins, qu'on y trouvoit de belles maisons," &c. &c.

See also in *M. Quatremère's Mémoires sur l'Egypte*, tom. i. p. 142., an account of a subterranean reservoir, said to have been discovered at Kaïs, and of the expedition undertaken by a party of persons, in a long narrow boat, for the purpose of exploring it. "Leur voyage avoit été de six jours, dont les quatre premiers furent employés à pénétrer les bords; les deux autres à revenir au lieu d'où ils étoient partis. Pendant tout cet intervalle ils ne purent atteindre l'extrémité du bassin. L'émir Ala-eddin-Tamboga, gouverneur de Behnesa, écrivit ces détails au sultan, qui en fut extrêmement surpris."

I was now standing, I found, on the small island in the centre of Lake Mœris [1]; and that sanctuary, where we had just emerged from darkness, formed part of the ruins of an ancient temple, which was (as I have since learned), in the grander days of Memphis, a place of pilgrimage for worshippers from all parts of Egypt. The fair Lake, itself, out of whose waters once rose pavilions, palaces, and even lofty pyramids, was still, though divested of many of these wonders, a scene of interest and splendour such as the whole world could not equal. While the shores still sparkled with mansions and temples, that bore testimony to the luxury of a living race, — the voice of the Past, speaking out of unnumbered ruins, whose summits, here and there, rose blackly above the wave [2], told of times long fled, and generations long swept away, before whose giant remains all the glory of the present stood humbled. Over the southern bank of the Lake hung the dark relics of the Labyrinth; — its twelve Royal Palaces, representing the mansions of the Zodiac — its thundering portals [3] and constellated halls, having left nothing now behind but a few frowning ruins, which, contrasted with the soft groves of acacia and olive around them, seemed to rebuke the luxuriant smiles of nature, and threw a melancholy grandeur over the whole scene.

The effects of the air, in re-animating the young Priestess, were less speedy than I had expected; — her eyes were still closed, and she remained pale and insensible. Alarmed, I now rested her head (which had been, for some time, supported by my arm) against the base of one of the columns, with my cloak for its pillow, while I hastened to procure some water from the Lake. The temple stood high, and the descent to the shore was precipitous. But, my Epicurean habits having but little impaired my activity, I soon descended, with the lightness of a desert deer, to the bottom Here, plucking from a lofty bean-tree, whose flowers stood, shining like gold, above the water, one of those large hollowed leaves that serve as cups [4] for the Hebes of the Nile, I filled it from the Lake, and hurried back with the cool draught towards the Temple. It was not, however, without some difficulty that I at last succeeded in bearing my rustic chalice steadily up the steep; more than once did an unlucky slip waste all its contents, and as often did I return impatiently to refill it.

During this time, the young maiden was fast recovering her animation and consciousness; and, at the moment when I appeared above the edge of the steep, was just rising from the steps, with her hand pressed to her forehead, as if confusedly recalling the recollection of what had occurred. No sooner did she observe me, than a short cry of alarm broke from her lips. Looking anxiously round, as though she sought for protection, and half-audibly uttering the words, "Where is he?" she made an effort, as I approached, to retreat into the Temple.

Already, however, I was by her side, and taking her hand, as she turned away from me, gently in mine, asked, "Whom dost thou seek, fair Priestess?" — thus, for the first time, breaking the silence she had enjoined, and in a tone that might have reassured the most timid spirit. But my words had no effect in calming her apprehension. Trembling, and with her eyes still averted towards the Temple, she continued in a voice of suppressed alarm, — "Where *can* he be? — that venerable Athenian, that philosopher, who ——"

"Here, here," I exclaimed, anxiously, interrupting her — "behold him still by thy side — the same, the very same, who saw thee steal from under the Veils of the Sanctuary, whom thou hast guided by a clue through those labyrinths below, and who now only waits his command from those lips, to devote himself through life and death to thy service." As I spoke these words, she turned slowly round, and looking timidly in my face, while her own burned with blushes, said, in a tone of doubt and wonder, "Thou!" and then hid her eyes in her hands.

I knew not how to interpret a reception so unexpected. That some mistake or disappointment had occurred was evident; but so inexplicable did the whole adventure appear to me, that it was in vain to think of unravelling any part of it. Weak and agitated, she now tottered to the steps of the Temple, and there seating herself, with her forehead against the cold marble, seemed for some moments absorbed in the most anxious thought; while silent and watchful I awaited her decision,

[1] The position here given to Lake Mœris, in making it the immediate boundary of the city of Memphis to the south, corresponds exactly with the site assigned to it by Maillet: — "Memphis avoit encore à son midi un vaste reservoir, par où tout ce qui peut servir à la commodité et à l'agrément de la vie lui étoit voituré abondamment de toutes les parties de l'Egypte. Ce lac qui la terminoit de ce côté-là," &c. &c.— Tom. ii. p. 7.

[2] "On voit sur la rive orientale des antiquités qui sont presque entièrement sous les eaux."—*Belzoni.*

[3] "Quorumdam autem domorum (in Labyrintho) talis est situs, ut adaperientibus fores tonitruum intus terribile exístat."—*Pliny.*

[4] *Strabo.* According to the French translator of Strabo, it was the fruit of the *faba Ægyptiaca*, not the leaf, that was used for this purpose. "Le κιβωριον," he says, "devoit s'entendre de la capsule ou fruit de cette plante, dont les Egyptiens se servoient comme d'un vase, imaginant que l'eau du Nil y devenoit délicieuse."

though, at the same time, with a feeling which the result proved to be prophetic — that my destiny was, from thenceforth, linked inseparably with hers.

The inward struggle by which she was agitated, though violent, was not of long continuance. Starting suddenly from her seat, with a look of terror towards the Temple, as if the fear of immediate pursuit had alone decided her, she pointed eagerly towards the East, and exclaimed, "To the Nile, without delay!" — clasping her hands, after she had thus spoken, with the most suppliant fervour, as if to soften the abruptness of the mandate she had given, and appealing to me at the same time, with a look that would have taught Stoics themselves tenderness.

I lost not a moment in obeying the welcome command. With a thousand wild hopes naturally crowding upon my fancy, at the thoughts of a voyage, under such auspices, I descended rapidly to the shore, and hailing one of those boats that ply upon the Lake for hire, arranged speedily for a passage down the canal to the Nile. Having learned, too, from the boatmen, a more easy path up the rock, I hastened back to the Temple for my fair charge; and, without a word or look, that could alarm, even by its kindness, or disturb the innocent confidence which she now evidently reposed in me, led her down by the winding path to the boat.

Every thing around looked sunny and smiling as we embarked. The morning was in its first freshness, and the path of the breeze might clearly be traced over the Lake, as it went wakening up the waters from their sleep of the night. The gay, golden-winged birds that haunt these shores, were, in every direction, skimming along the Lake; while, with a graver consciousness of beauty, the swan and the pelican were seen dressing their white plumage in the mirror of its wave. To add to the liveliness of the scene, there came, at intervals, on the breeze, a sweet tinkling of musical instruments from boats at a distance, employed thus early in pursuing the fish of these waters [1], that allow themselves to be decoyed into the nets by music.

The vessel I had selected for our voyage was one of those small pleasure-boats or yachts [2] — so much in use among the luxurious navigators of the Nile — in the centre of which rises a pavilion of cedar or cypress wood, adorned richly on the outside, with religious emblems, and gaily fitted up, within, for feasting and repose. To the door of this pavilion I now led my companion, and, after a few words of kindness — tempered cautiously with as much reserve as the deep tenderness of my feeling towards her would admit — left her to court that restoring rest, which the agitation of her spirits so much required.

For myself, though repose was hardly less necessary to me, the state of ferment in which I had been so long kept, appeared to render it hopeless. Having thrown myself on the deck of the vessel, under an awning which the sailors had raised for me, I continued, for some hours, in a sort of vague day-dream — sometimes passing in review the scenes of that subterranean drama, and sometimes, with my eyes fixed in drowsy vacancy, receiving passively the impressions of the bright scenery through which we passed.

The banks of the canal were then luxuriantly wooded. Under the tufts of the light and towering palm were seen the orange and the citron, interlacing their boughs; while, here and there, huge tamarisks thickened the shade, and, at the very edge of the bank, the willow of Babylon stood bending its graceful branches into the water. Occasionally, out of the depth of these groves, there shone a small temple or pleasure-house; while, now and then, an opening in their line of foliage allowed the eye to wander over extensive fields, all covered with beds of those pale, sweet roses [3], for which this district of Egypt is so celebrated.

The activity of the morning hour was visible in every direction. Flights of doves and lapwings were fluttering among the leaves; and the white heron, which had been roosting all night in some date-tree, now stood sunning its wings upon the green bank, or floated, like living silver, over the flood. The flowers, too, both of land and water, looked all just freshly awakened; — and, most of all, the superb lotus, which, having risen along with the sun from the wave, was now holding up her chalice for a full draught of his light.

Such were the scenes that now successively presented themselves, and mingled with the vague reveries that floated through my mind, as our boat, with its high, capacious sail, swept along the flood. Though the occurrences of the last few days could not but appear to me one continued series of wonders, yet by far the greatest marvel of all was, that she, whose first look had sent wild-fire into my heart — whom I had thought of

[1] *Ælian*, lib. vi. 32.

[2] Called Thalameges, from the pavilion on the deck. — Vide *Strabo*.

[3] As April is the season for gathering these roses (see *Malte-Brun's Economical Calendar*), the Epicurean could not, of course, mean to say that he saw them actually in flower.

ever since, with a restlessness of passion, that would have dared all danger and wrong to obtain its object—*she* was now at this moment resting sacredly within that pavilion, while guarding her, even from myself, I lay motionless at its threshold.

Meanwhile, the sun had reached his meridian height. The busy hum of the morning had died gradually away, and all around was sleeping in the hot stillness of noon. The Nile-goose, having folded up her splendid wings, was lying motionless on the shadow of the sycamores in the water. Even the nimble lizards upon the bank[1] appeared to move less nimbly, as the light fell on their gold and azures hues. Overcome as I was with watching, and weary with thought, it was not long before I yielded to the becalming influence of the hour. Looking fixedly at the pavilion—as if once more to assure myself that I was in no dream or trance, but that the young Egyptian was really there—I felt my eyes close as I gazed, and in a few minutes sunk into a profound sleep.

CHAPTER XII.

It was by the canal through which we now sailed[2], that, in the more prosperous days of Memphis, the commerce of Upper Egypt and Nubia was transported to her magnificent Lake, and from thence, having paid tribute to the queen of cities, was poured forth again, through the Nile, into the ocean. The course of this canal to the river was not direct, but ascending in a south-easterly direction towards the Saïd; and in calms, or with adverse winds, the passage was tedious. But as the breeze was now blowing freshly from the north, there was every prospect of our reaching the river before nightfall. Rapidly, too, as our galley swept along the flood, its motion was so smooth as to be hardly felt; and the quiet gurgle of the waters, and the drowsy song of the boatman at the prow, were the only sounds that disturbed the deep silence which prevailed.

The sun, indeed, had nearly sunk behind the Libyan hills, before the sleep, into which these sounds had contributed to lull me, was broken; and the first object on which my eyes rested, in waking, was that fair young Priestess—seated within a porch which shaded the door of the pavilion, and bending intently over a small volume that lay unrolled on her lap.

Her face was but half-turned towards me; and as she, once or twice, raised her eyes to the warm sky, whose light fell, softened through the trellis, over her cheek, I found all those feelings of reverence, which she had inspired me with in the chapel, return. There was even a purer and holier charm around her countenance, thus seen by the natural light of day, than in those dim and unhallowed regions below. She was now looking, too, direct to the glorious sky, and her pure eyes and that heaven, so worthy of each other, met.

After contemplating her for a few moments, with little less than adoration, I rose gently from my resting-place, and approached the pavilion. But the mere movement had startled her from her devotion, and, blushing and confused, she covered the volume with the folds of her robe.

In the art of winning upon female confidence, I had long, of course, been schooled; and, now that to the lessons of gallantry the inspiration of love was added, my ambition to please and to interest could hardly fail, it may be supposed, of success. I soon found, however, how much less fluent is the heart than the fancy, and how very different may be the operations of making love and feeling it. In the few words of greeting now exchanged between us, it was evident that the gay, the enterprising Epicurean was little less embarrassed than the secluded Priestess;—and, after one or two ineffectual efforts to converse, the eyes of both turned bashfully away, and we relapsed into silence.

From this situation—the result of timidity on one side, and of a feeling altogether new on the other—we were, at length, relieved, after an interval of estrangement, by the boatmen announcing that the Nile was in sight. The countenance of the young Egyptian brightened at this intelligence; and the smile with which I congratulated her upon the speed of our voyage was responded to by another from her, so full of gratitude, that already an instinctive sympathy seemed established between us.

We were now on the point of entering that sacred river, of whose sweet waters the exile drinks in his dreams—for a draught of whose flood the royal daughters of the Ptolemies[3], when far away,

[1] "L'or et l'azur brillent en bandes longitudinales sur leur corps entier, et leur queue est du plus beau bleu céleste." *Sonnini.*

[2] "Un canal," says *Maillet*, "très-profond et très-large y voituroit les eaux du Nil."

[3] "Anciennement on portoit les eaux du Nil jusqu'à des contrées *fort éloignées*, et *surtout* chez les princesses du sang des Ptolomées, mariées dans des familles étrangères."—*De Pauw.*

The water thus conveyed to other lands was, as we may collect from Juvenal, chiefly intended for the use of the Temples of Isis, established in those countries.

Si candida jusserit Io,
Ibit ad Ægypti finem, calidaque petitas

on foreign thrones, have been known to sigh in the midst of their splendour. As our boat, with slackened sail, was gliding into the current, an inquiry from the boatmen, whether they should anchor for the night in the Nile, first reminded me of the ignorance in which I still remained, with respect to the motive or destination of our voyage. Embarrassed by their question, I directed my eyes towards the Priestess, whom I saw waiting for my answer with a look of anxiety, which this silent reference to her wishes at once dispelled. Unfolding eagerly the volume with which I had seen her so much occupied, she took from between its folds a small leaf of papyrus, on which there appeared to be some faint lines of drawing, and after looking upon it thoughtfully for a few moments, placed it, with an agitated hand, in mine.

In the mean time, the boatmen had taken in their sail, and the yacht drove slowly down the river with the current; while, by a light which had been kindled at sunset on the deck, I stood examining the leaf that the Priestess had given me—her dark eyes fixed anxiously on my countenance all the while. The lines traced upon the papyrus were so faint as to be almost invisible, and I was for some time wholly unable to form a conjecture as to their import. At length, however, I succeeded in making out that they were a sort of map, or outlines—traced slightly and unsteadily with a Memphian reed—of a part of that mountainous ridge by which Upper Egypt is bounded to the east, together with the names, or rather emblems, of the chief towns in its immediate neighbourhood.

It was thither, I now saw clearly, that the young Priestess wished to pursue her course. Without further delay, therefore, I ordered the boatmen to set our yacht before the wind, and ascend the current. My command was promptly obeyed: the white sail again rose into the region of the breeze, and the satisfaction that beamed in every feature of the fair Egyptian showed that the quickness with which I had attended to her wishes was not unfelt by her. The moon had now risen; and though the current was against us, the Etesian wind of the season blew strongly up the river, and we were soon floating before it, through the rich plains and groves of the Saïd.

> A Meroë portabit aquas, ut spargat in æde
> Isidis, antiquo quæ proxima surgit ovili.
>
> *Sat.* vi.

[1] "Le nom du maître y étoit écrit, pendant la nuit, en lettres de feu."—*Maillet.*

[2] Called Alassontes. For their brittleness *Martial* is an authority:—

> Tolle, puer, calices, tepidique toreumata Nili,
> Et mihi sœcurâ pocula trade manu

The love with which this simple girl had inspired me, was partly, perhaps, from the mystic scenes and situations in which I had seen her, not unmingled with a tinge of superstitious awe, under the influence of which I felt the natural buoyancy of my spirit repressed. The few words that had passed between us on the subject of our route had somewhat loosened this spell; and what I wanted of vivacity and confidence was more than compensated by the tone of deep sensibility which love had awakened in their place.

We had not proceeded far, before the glittering of lights at a distance, and the shooting up of fireworks, at intervals, into the air, apprized us that we were then approaching one of those night-fairs, or marts, which it is the custom, at this season, to hold upon the Nile. To me the scene was familiar; but to my young companion it was evidently a new world; and the mixture of alarm and delight with which she gazed, from under her veil, upon the busy scene into which we now sailed, gave an air of innocence to her beauty, which still more heightened its every charm.

It was one of the widest parts of the river; and the whole surface, from one bank to the other, was covered with boats. Along the banks of a green island, in the middle of the stream, lay anchored the galleys of the principal traders—large floating bazaars, bearing each the name of its owner[1], emblazoned in letters of flame, upon the stern. Over their decks were spread out, in gay confusion, the products of the loom and needle of Egypt—rich carpets of Memphis, and likewise those variegated veils, for which the female embroiderers of the Nile are so celebrated, and to which the name of Cleopatra lends a traditional charm. In each of the other galleys was exhibited some branch of Egyptian workmanship—vases of the fragrant porcelain of On—cups of that frail crystal[2], whose hues change like those of the pigeon's plumage—enamelled amulets graven with the head of Anubis, and necklaces and bracelets of the black beans of Abyssinia.[3]

While Commerce was thus displaying her various luxuries in one quarter, in every other, the spirit of Pleasure, in all its countless shapes, swarmed over the waters. Nor was the festivity confined to the river alone; as along the banks of the island

[1] "Le nom du maître y étoit écrit, pendant la nuit, en lettres de feu."—*Maillet.*

[2] "Sans parler ici des coupes d'un verre porté jusqu'à la pureté du crystal, ni de celles qu'on appeloit Alassontes, et qu'on suppose avoir représenté des figures dont les couleurs changeoient suivant l'aspect sous lequel on les regardoit, à peu près comme ce qu'on nomme vulgairement *gorge-de-pigeon*," &c.—*De Pauw.*

[3] The bean of the Glycine, which is so beautiful as to be strung into necklaces and bracelets, is generally known by the name of the black bean of Abyssinia.—*Niebuhr.*

and on the shores, illuminated mansions were seen glittering through the trees, from whence sounds of music and merriment came. In some of the boats were bands of minstrels, who, from time to time, answered each other, like echoes, across the wave; and the notes of the lyre, the flageolet, and the sweet lotus-wood flute[1], were heard, in the pauses of revelry, dying along the waters.

Meanwhile, from other boats stationed in the least lighted places, the workers of fire sent forth their wonders into the air. Bursting out suddenly from time to time, as if in the very exuberance of joy, these sallies of flame appeared to reach the sky, and there, breaking into a shower of sparkles, shed such a splendour around, as brightened even the white Arabian hills—making them shine as doth the brow of Mount Atlas at night[2], when the fire from his own bosom is playing around its snows.

The opportunity this mart afforded us, of providing ourselves with some less remarkable habiliments than those in which we had escaped from that nether world, was too seasonable not to be gladly taken advantage of by both. For myself, the strange mystic garb which I wore was sufficiently concealed by my Grecian mantle, which I had fortunately thrown round me on the night of my watch. But the thin veil of my companion was a far less efficient disguise. She had, indeed, flung away the golden beetles from her hair; but the sacred robe of her order was still too visible, and the stars of the bandelet shone brightly through her veil.

Most gladly, therefore, did she avail herself of this opportunity of a change; and, as she took from out a casket—which, with the volume I had seen her reading, appeared to be her only treasure—a small jewel, to give in exchange for the simple garments she had chosen, there fell out, at the same time, the very cross of silver which I had seen her kiss, as may be remembered, in the monumental chapel, and which was afterwards pressed to my own lips. This link between us, (for such it now appeared to my imagination) called up again in my heart all the burning feelings of that moment;—and, had I not abruptly turned away, my agitation would have but too plainly betrayed itself.

The object, for which we had delayed in this gay scene, having been accomplished, the sail was again spread, and we proceeded on our course up the river. The sounds and the lights we had left behind died gradually away, and we now floated along in moonlight and silence once more. Sweet dews, worthy of being called "the tears of Isis[3]," fell refreshingly through the air, and every plant and flower sent its fragrance to meet them. The wind, just strong enough to bear us smoothly against the current, scarce stirred the shadow of the tamarisks on the water. As the inhabitants from all quarters were collected at the night-fair, the Nile was more than usually still and solitary. Such a silence, indeed, prevailed, that, as we glided near the shore, we could hear the rustling of the acacias[4], as the chameleons ran up their stems. It was, altogether, such a night as only the climate of Egypt can boast, when the whole scene around lies lulled in that sort of bright tranquillity, which may be imagined to light the slumbers of those happy spirits, who are said to rest in the Valley of the Moon[5], on their way to heaven.

By such a light, and at such an hour, seated, side by side, on the deck of that bark, did we pursue our course up the lonely Nile—each a mystery to the other—our thoughts, our objects, our very names a secret;—separated, too, till now, by destinies so different; the one, a gay voluptuary of the Garden of Athens; the other, a secluded Priestess of the Temples of Memphis;—and the only relation yet established between us being that dangerous one of love, passionate love, on one side, and the most feminine and confiding dependence on the other.

The passing adventure of the night-fair had not only dispelled a little our mutual reserve, but had luckily furnished us with a subject on which we could converse without embarrassment. From this topic I took care to lead her, without any interruption, to others—being fearful lest our former silence should return, and the music of her voice again be lost to me. It was only, indeed, by thus indirectly unburdening my heart that I was enabled to avoid the disclosure of all I thought and felt; and the restless rapidity with which I flew from subject to subject was but an effort to escape from the only one in which my heart was really interested.

"How bright and happy," said I—pointing up

[1] See *M. Villoteau on the musical instruments of the Egyptians.*

[2] *Solinus* speaks of the snowy summit of Mount Atlas glittering with flames at night. In the account of the Periplus of Hanno, as well as in that of Eudoxus, we read, that as those navigators were coasting this part of Africa, torrents of light were seen to fall on the sea.

[3] "Per lacrymas, vero, Isidis intelligo effluvia quædam Lunæ, quibus tantam vim videntur tribuisse Ægypti." *Jablonski.*—He is of opinion that the superstition of the *Nucta*, or miraculous drop, is a relic of the veneration paid to the dews, as the tears of Isis.

[4] *Travels of Captain Mangles.*

[5] *Plutarch. Dupuis*, tom. x. The Manicheans held the same belief.—See *Beausobre*, p. 565.

to Sothis, the fair Star of the Waters [1], which was just then shining brilliantly over our heads—"How bright and happy this world ought to be, if, as your Egyptian sages assert, yon pure and beautiful luminary was its birth-star!" [2] Then, still leaning back, and letting my eyes wander over the firmament, as if seeking to disengage them from the fascination which they dreaded—"To the study," I exclaimed, "for ages, of skies like this, may the pensive and mystic character of your nation be traced. That mixture of pride and melancholy which naturally arises at the sight of those eternal lights shining out of darkness;—that sublime, but saddened, anticipation of a Future, which steals sometimes over the soul in the silence of such an hour, when, though Death appears to reign in the deep stillness of earth, there are yet those beacons of Immortality burning in the sky."

Pausing, as I uttered the word "immortality," with a sigh to think how little my heart echoed to my lips, I looked in the face of my companion, and saw that it had lighted up, as I spoke, into a glow of holy animation, such as Faith alone gives;—such as Hope herself wears, when she is dreaming of heaven. Touched by the contrast, and gazing upon her with mournful tenderness, I found my arms half opened, to clasp her to my heart, while the words died away inaudibly upon my lips,—"Thou, too, beautiful maiden! must thou, too, die for ever?"

My self-command, I felt, had nearly deserted me. Rising abruptly from my seat, I walked to the middle of the deck, and stood, for some moments, unconsciously gazing upon one of those fires, which—according to the custom of all who travel by night on the Nile—our boatmen had kindled, to scare away the crocodiles from the vessel. But it was in vain that I endeavoured to compose my spirit. Every effort I made but more deeply convinced me, that, till the mystery which hung round that maiden should be solved—till the secret, with which my own bosom laboured, should be disclosed—it was fruitless to attempt even a semblance of tranquillity.

My resolution was therefore taken;—to lay open, at once, the feelings of my own heart, as far as such revealment might be hazarded, without startling the timid innocence of my companion. Thus resolved, I resumed my seat, with more composure, by her side; and taking from my bosom the small mirror which she had dropped in the Temple, and which I had ever since worn suspended round my neck, presented it with a trembling hand to her view. The boatmen had just kindled one of their night-fires near us, and its light, as she leaned forward to look at the mirror, fell upon her face.

The quick blush of surprise with which she recognised it to be hers, and her look of bashful yet eager inquiry, in raising her eyes to mine, were appeals to which I was not, of course, tardy in answering. Beginning with the first moment when I saw her in the Temple, and passing hastily, but with words that burned as they went, over the impression which she had then left upon my heart and fancy, I proceeded to describe the particulars of my descent into the pyramid—my surprise and adoration at the door of the chapel—my encounter with the Trials of Initiation, so mysteriously prepared for me, and all the various visionary wonders I had witnessed in that region, till the moment when I had seen her stealing from under the Veils to approach me.

Though, in detailing these events, I had said but little of the feelings they had awakened in me—though my lips had sent back many a sentence, unuttered, there was still enough that could neither be subdued nor disguised, and which, like that light from under the veils of her own Isis, glowed through every word that I spoke. When I told of the scene in the chapel—of the silent interview which I had witnessed between the dead and the living—the maiden leaned down her head and wept, as from a heart full of tears. It seemed a pleasure to her, however, to listen; and, when she looked at me again, there was an earnest and affectionate cordiality in her eyes, as if the knowledge of my having been present at that mournful scene had opened a new source of sympathy and intelligence between us. So neighbouring are the fountains of Love and of Sorrow, and so imperceptibly do they often mingle their streams.

Little, indeed, as I was guided by art or design, in my manner and conduct towards this innocent girl, not all the most experienced gallantry of the Garden could have dictated a policy half so seductive as that which my new master, Love, now taught me. The same ardour which, if shown at once, and without reserve, might probably have startled a heart so little prepared for it, being now checked and softened by the timidity of real love, won its way without alarm, and, when most diffident of success, was then most surely on its way to triumph. Like one whose slumbers are gradually broken by sweet music, the maiden's heart

[1] Τὸ ἀγαγὸν is the epithet applied to this star by *Plutarch. de Isid.*

[2] Ἡ Σωθὶς ἀνατολὴ γένεσιν καταέχουσα τῆς εἰς τὸν κόσμον.—*Porphyr. de Antro Nymph.*

was awakened without being disturbed. She followed the course of the charm, unconscious whither it led, nor was even aware of the flame she had lighted in another's bosom, till startled by the reflection of it glimmering in her own.

Impatient as I was to appeal to her generosity and sympathy, for a similar proof of confidence to that which I had just given, the night was now too far advanced for me to impose upon her such a task. After exchanging a few words, in which, though little met the ear, there was, on both sides, a tone and manner that spoke far more than language, we took a lingering leave of each other for the night, with every prospect, I fondly hoped, of being still together in our dreams.

CHAPTER XIII.

It was so near the dawn of day when we parted that we found the sun sinking westward when we rejoined each other. The smile, so frankly cordial, with which she met me, might have been taken for the greeting of a long-mellowed friendship, did not the blush and the cast-down eyelid that followed betray symptoms of a feeling newer and less calm. For myself, lightened as I was, in some degree, by the avowal which I had made, I was yet too conscious of the new aspect thus given to our intercourse, not to feel some little alarm at the prospect of returning to the theme. We were both, therefore, alike willing to allow our attention to be diverted, by the variety of strange objects that presented themselves on the way, from a subject that evidently both were alike unwilling to approach.

The river was now all stirring with commerce and life. Every instant we met with boats descending the current, so wholly independent of aid from sail or oar, that the mariners sat idly on the deck as they shot along, either singing or playing upon their double-reeded pipes. The greater number of these boats came laden with those large emeralds, from the mine in the desert, whose colours, it is said, are brightest at the full of the moon; while some brought cargoes of frankincense from the acacia groves near the Red Sea. On the decks of others, that had been, as we learned, to the Golden Mountains[1] beyond Syene, were heaped blocks and fragments of that sweet-smelling wood[2], which is yearly washed down, by the Green Nile of Nubia, at the season of the floods.

Our companions up the stream were far less numerous. Occasionally a boat, returning lightened from the fair of last night, shot rapidly past us, with those high sails that catch every breeze from over the hills;—while, now and then, we overtook one of those barges full of bees[3], that are sent at this season to colonise the gardens of the south, and take advantage of the first flowers after the inundation has passed away.

For a short time, this constant variety of objects enabled us to divert so far our conversation as to keep it from lighting upon the one, sole subject, round which it constantly hovered. But the effort, as might be expected, was not long successful. As evening advanced, the whole scene became more solitary. We less frequently ventured to look upon each other, and our intervals of silence grew more long.

It was near sunset, when, in passing a small temple on the shore, whose porticoes were now full of the evening light, we saw issuing from a thicket of acanthus near it, a train of young maidens gracefully linked together in the dance by stems of the lotus held at arms' length between them. Their tresses were also wreathed with this gay emblem of the season, and in such profusion were its white flowers twisted around their waists and arms[4], that they might have been taken, as they lightly bounded along the bank, for Nymphs of the Nile, then freshly risen from their bright gardens under the wave.

After looking for a few minutes at this sacred dance, the maiden turned away her eyes, with a look of pain, as if the remembrances it recalled were of no welcome nature. This momentary retrospect, this glimpse into the past, appeared to offer a sort of clue to the secret for which I panted;—and accordingly I proceeded, as gradually and delicately as my impatience would allow, to avail myself of the opening. Her own frankness, however, relieved me from the embarrassment of much questioning. She appeared even to feel that the confidence I sought was due to me; and beyond the natural hesitation of maidenly modesty, not a shade of reserve or evasion appeared.

To attempt to repeat, in her own touching words, the simple story which she now related to me,

[1] Vide *Wilford on Egypt and the Nile*, Asiatic Researches.

[2] "A l'époque de la crue le Nil Vert charrie les planches d'un bois qui a une odeur semblable à celle de l'encens." *Quatremère.*

[3] *Maillet.*

[4] "On les voit comme jadis cueillir dans les champs des tiges du lotus, signes du débordement et présages de l'abondance; ils s'enveloppent les bras et le corps avec les longues tiges fleuries, et parcourent les rues," &c. — *Description des Tombeaux des Rois, par M. Costaz.*

would be like endeavouring to note down some unpremeditated strain of music, with all those fugitive graces, those felicities of the moment, which no art can restore, as they first met the ear. From a feeling, too, of humility, she had omitted in her short narrative several particulars relating to herself, which I afterwards learned; — while others, not less important, she but slightly passed over, from a fear of offending the prejudices of her heathen hearer.

I shall, therefore, give her story, not as she, herself, sketched it, but as it was afterwards filled up by a pious and venerable hand — far, far more worthy than mine of being associated with the memory of such purity.

STORY OF ALETHE.

"THE mother of this maiden was the beautiful Theora of Alexandria, who, though a native of that city, was descended from Grecian parents. When very young, Theora was one of the seven maidens selected to note down the discourses of the eloquent Origen, who, at that period, presided over the School of Alexandria, and was in all the fulness of his fame both among Pagans and Christians. Endowed richly with the learning of both creeds, he brought the natural light of philosophy to illustrate the mysteries of faith, and was then only proud of his knowledge of the wisdom of this world, when he found it minister usefully to the triumph of divine truth.

"Although he had courted in vain the crown of martyrdom, it was held, through his whole life, suspended over his head; and, in more than one persecution, he had shown himself cheerfully ready to die for that holy faith which he lived but to testify and uphold. On one of these occasions, his tormentors, having habited him like an Egyptian priest, placed him upon the steps of the Temple of Serapis, and commanded that he should, in the manner of the Pagan ministers, present palm-branches to the multitude who went up into the shrine. But the courageous Christian disappointed their views. Holding forth the branches with an unshrinking hand, he cried aloud, 'Come hither, and take the branch, — not of an Idol Temple, but of Christ.'

"So indefatigable was this learned Father in his studies, that, while composing his Commentary on the Scriptures[1], he was attended by seven scribes or notaries, who relieved each other in recording the dictates of his eloquent tongue; while the same number of young females, selected for the beauty of their penmanship, were employed in arranging and transcribing the precious leaves.

"Among the scribes so selected, was the fair young Theora, whose parents, though attached to the Pagan worship, were not unwilling to profit by the accomplishments of their daughter, thus occupied in a task, which they looked on as purely mechanical. To the maid herself, however, her employment brought far other feelings and consequences. She read anxiously as she wrote, and the divine truths, so eloquently illustrated, found their way, by degrees, from the page to her heart. Deeply, too, as the written words affected her, the discourses from the lips of the great teacher himself, which she had frequent opportunities of hearing, sunk still more deeply into her mind. There was, at once, a sublimity and gentleness in his views of religion, which, to the tender hearts and lively imaginations of women, never failed to appeal with convincing power. Accordingly, the list of his female pupils was numerous; and the names of Barbara, Juliana, Heraïs, and others, bear honourable testimony to his influence over that sex.

"To Theora the feeling, with which his discourses inspired her, was like a new soul — a consciousness of spiritual existence, never before felt. By the eloquence of the comment she was awakened into admiration of the text; and when, by the kindness of a Catechumen of the school, who had been struck by her innocent zeal, she, for the first time, became possessor of a copy of the Scriptures, she could not sleep for thinking of her sacred treasure. With a mixture of pleasure and fear she hid it from all eyes, and was like one who had received a divine guest under her roof, and felt fearful of betraying its divinity to the world.

"A heart so awake would have been with ease secured to the faith, had her opportunities of hearing the sacred word continued. But circumstances arose to deprive her of this advantage. The mild Origen, long harassed and thwarted in his labours by the tyranny of Demetrius, Bishop of Alexandria, was obliged to relinquish his school and fly from Egypt. The occupation of the fair scribe was, therefore, at an end: her intercourse with the followers of the new faith ceased; and the growing enthusiasm of her heart gave way to more worldly impressions.

"Among other earthly feelings, love conduced not a little to wean her thoughts from the true religion. While still very young, she became the wife of a Greek adventurer, who had come to

[1] It was during the composition of his great critical work, the Hexapla, that Origen employed these female scribes.

Egypt as a purchaser of that rich tapestry[1], in which the needles of Persia are rivalled by the looms of the Nile. Having taken his young bride to Memphis, which was still the great mart of this merchandise, he there, in the midst of his speculations, died—leaving his widow on the point of becoming a mother, while, as yet, but in her nineteenth year

"For single and unprotected females, it has been, at all times, a favourite resource, to seek for employment in the service of some of those great temples by which so large a portion of the wealth and power of Egypt is absorbed. In most of these institutions there exists an order of Priestesses, which, though not hereditary, like that of the Priests, is provided for by ample endowments, and confers that dignity and station, with which, in a government so theocratic, Religion is sure to invest even her humblest handmaids. From the general policy of the Sacred College of Memphis, we may take for granted, that an accomplished female, like Theora, found but little difficulty in being elected one of the Priestesses of Isis; and it was in the service of the subterranean shrines that her ministry chiefly lay.

"Here, a month or two after her admission, she gave birth to Alethe, who first opened her eyes among the unholy pomps and specious miracles of this mysterious region. Though Theora, as we have seen, had been diverted by other feelings from her first enthusiasm for the Christian faith, she had never wholly forgot the impression then made upon her. The sacred volume, which the pious Catechumen had given her, was still treasured with care; and, though she seldom opened its pages, there was always an idea of sanctity associated with it in her memory, and often would she sit to look upon it with reverential pleasure, recalling the happiness she had felt when it was first made her own.

"The leisure of her new retreat, and the lone melancholy of widowhood, led her still more frequently to indulge in such thoughts, and to recur to those consoling truths which she had heard in the school of Alexandria. She now began to peruse eagerly the sacred volume, drinking deep of the fountain of which she before but tasted, and feeling—what thousands of mourners, since her, have felt—that Christianity is the true and only religion of the sorrowful.

"This study of her secret hours became still more dear to her, as well from the peril with which, at that period, it was attended, as from the necessity she felt herself under of concealing from those around her the precious light that had been thus kindled in her own heart. Too timid to encounter the fierce persecution, which awaited all who were suspected of a leaning to Christianity, she continued to officiate in the pomps and ceremonies of the Temple;—though, often, with such remorse of soul, that she would pause, in the midst of the rites, and pray inwardly to God, that he would forgive this profanation of his Spirit.

"In the mean time her daughter, the young Alethe, grew up still lovelier than herself, and added, every hour, both to her happiness and her fears. When arrived at a sufficient age, she was taught, like the other children of the priestesses, to take a share in the service and ceremonies of the shrines. The duty of some of these young servitors[2] was to look after the flowers for the altar;—of others, to take care that the sacred vases were filled every day with fresh water from the Nile. The task of some was to preserve, in perfect polish, those silver images of the Moon which the priests carried in processions; while others were, as we have seen, employed in feeding the consecrated animals, and in keeping their plumes and scales bright for the admiring eyes of their worshippers.

"The office allotted to Alethe—the most honourable of these minor ministries—was to wait upon the sacred birds of the Moon, to feed them daily with those eggs from the Nile which they loved, and provide for their use that purest water, which alone these delicate birds will touch. This employment was the delight of her childish hours; and that ibis, which Alciphron (the Epicurean) saw her dance round in the Temple, was, of all the sacred flock, her especial favourite, and had been daily fondled and fed by her from infancy.

"Music, as being one of the chief spells of this enchanted region, was an accomplishment required of all its ministrants; and the harp, the lyre, and the sacred flute, sounded nowhere so sweetly as through these subterranean gardens. The chief object, indeed, in the education of the youth of the Temple, was to fit them, by every grace of art and nature, to give effect to the illusion of those shows and phantasms, in which the entire charm and secret of Initiation lay

"Among the means employed to support the old system of superstition, against the infidelity and,

[1] Non ego prætulerim Babylonica picta superbè
Texta, Semiramiâ quæ variantur acu. *Martial.*

[2] De Pauw, who differs in opinion from those who supposed women to be eligible to the higher sacerdotal offices in Egypt, thus enumerates the tasks to which their superintendence was, as he thinks, confined:—"Les femmes n'ont pu tout au plus dans l'ordre secondaire s'acquitter que de quelques emplois sans conséquence; comme de nourrir des scarabées, des musaraignes et d'autres *petits animaux sacrés*."—Tom. i. sect. 2.

still more, the new Faith that menaced it, was an increased display of splendour and marvels in those mysteries for which Egypt has so long been celebrated. Of these ceremonies so many imitations had, under various names, multiplied throughout Europe, that at length the parent superstition ran a risk of being eclipsed by its progeny; and, in order still to rank as the first Priesthood in the world, it became necessary for those of Egypt to remain still the best impostors.

"Accordingly, every contrivance that art could devise, or labour execute — every resource that the wonderful knowledge of the Priests, in pyrotechny, mechanics, and dioptrics, could command — was brought into action to heighten the effect of their Mysteries, and give an air of enchantment to every thing connected with them.

"The final scene of beatification — the Elysium, into which the Initiate was received — formed, of course, the leading attraction of these ceremonies; and to render it captivating alike to the senses of the man of pleasure, and the imagination of the spiritualist, was the great object to which the attention of the Sacred College was devoted. By the influence of the Priests of Memphis over those of the other Temples they had succeeded in extending their subterranean frontier, both to the north and south, so as to include, within their ever-lighted Paradise, some of the gardens excavated for the use of the other Twelve Shrines.

"The beauty of the young Alethe, the touching sweetness of her voice, and the sensibility that breathed throughout her every look and movement, rendered her a powerful auxiliary in such appeals to the imagination. She had been, accordingly, in her very childhood, selected from among her fair companions, as the most worthy representative of spiritual loveliness, in those pictures of Elysium — those scenes of another world — by which not only the fancy, but the reason, of the excited Aspirants was dazzled.

"To the innocent child herself these shows were pastime. But to Theora, who knew too well the imposition to which they were subservient, this profanation of all that she loved was a perpetual source of horror and remorse. Often would she — when Alethe stood smiling before her, arrayed, perhaps, as a spirit of the Elysian world — turn away, with a shudder, from the happy child, almost fancying she saw already the shadows of sin descending over that innocent brow, as she gazed upon it.

"As the intellect of the young maid became more active and inquiring, the apprehensions and difficulties of the mother increased. Afraid to communicate her own precious secret, lest she should involve her child in the dangers that encompassed it, she yet felt it to be no less a cruelty than a crime to leave her wholly immersed in the darkness of Paganism. In this dilemma, the only resource that remained to her was to select, and disengage from the dross that surrounded them, those pure particles of truth which lie at the bottom of all religions; — those feelings, rather than doctrines, of which God has never left his creatures destitute, and which, in all ages, have furnished, to those who sought after it, some clue to his glory.

"The unity and perfect goodness of the Creator; the fall of the human soul into corruption, its struggles with the darkness of this world, and its final redemption and re-ascent to the source of all spirit; — these natural solutions of the problem of our existence, these elementary grounds of all religion and virtue, which Theora had heard illustrated by her Christian teacher, lay also, she knew, veiled under the theology of Egypt; and to impress them, in their abstract purity, upon the mind of her susceptible pupil, was, in default of more heavenly lights, her sole ambition and care.

"It was generally their habit, after devoting their mornings to the service of the Temple, to pass their evenings and nights in one of those small mansions above ground, allotted, within the precincts of the Sacred College, to some of the most favoured Priestesses. Here, out of the reach of those gross superstitions, which pursued them, at every step, below, she endeavoured to inform, as far as she could venture, the mind of her beloved girl; and found it lean as naturally and instinctively to truth, as plants long shut up in darkness will, when light is let in upon them, incline themselves to its rays.

"Frequently, as they sat together on the terrace at night, admiring that glorious assembly of stars, whose beauty first misled mankind into idolatry, she would explain to the young listener by what gradations of error it was that the worship, thus transferred from the Creator to the creature, sunk still lower and lower in the scale of being, till man, at length, presumed to deify man, and by the most monstrous of inversions, heaven was made the mere mirror of earth, reflecting back all its most earthly features.

"Even in the Temple itself, the anxious mother would endeavour to interpose her purer lessons among the idolatrous ceremonies in which they were engaged. When the favourite ibis of Alethe took its station upon the shrine, and the young maiden was seen approaching, with all the gravity of worship, the very bird which she had played with but an hour before — when the acacia-bough,

which she herself had plucked, seemed to acquire a sudden sacredness in her eyes, as soon as the priest had breathed upon it—on all such occasions Theora, though with fear and trembling, would venture to suggest to the youthful worshipper the distinction that should be drawn between the sensible object of adoration, and that spiritual, unseen Deity, of which it was but the remembrancer or type.

"With sorrow, however, she soon discovered that, in thus but partially letting in light upon a mind far too ardent to rest satisfied with such glimmerings, she but bewildered the heart which she meant to guide, and cut down the feeble hope around which its faith twined, without substituting any other support in its place. As the beauty, too, of Alethe began to attract all eyes, new fears crowded upon the mother's heart;—fears, in which she was but too much justified by the characters of some of those around her.

"In this sacred abode, as may easily be conceived, morality did not always go hand in hand with religion. The hypocritical and ambitious Orcus, who was, at this period, High Priest of Memphis, was a man, in every respect, qualified to preside over a system of such splendid fraud. He had reached that effective time of life, when enough of the warmth and vigour of youth remains to give animation to the counsels of age. But, in his instance, youth had left only the baser passions behind, while age but brought with it a more refined maturity of mischief. The advantages of a faith appealing almost wholly to the senses, were well understood by him; nor had he failed either to discover that, in order to render religion subservient to his own interests, he must shape it adroitly to the interests and passions of others.

"The state of anxiety and remorse in which the mind of the hapless Theora was kept by the scenes, however artfully veiled, which she daily witnessed around her, became at length intolerable. No perils that the cause of truth could bring with it would be half so dreadful as this endurance of sinfulness and deceit. Her child was, as yet, pure and innocent; but, without that sentinel of the soul, Religion, how long might she continue so?

"This thought at once decided her: all other fears vanished before it. She resolved instantly to lay open to Alethe the whole secret of her soul; to make this child, who was her only hope on earth, the sharer of all her hopes in heaven, and then fly with her, as soon as possible, from this unhallowed spot, to the far desert—to the mountains—to any place, however desolate, where God and the consciousness of innocence might be with them.

"The promptitude with which her young pupil caught from her the divine truths was even beyond what she expected. It was like the lighting of one torch at another, so prepared was Alethe's mind for the illumination. Amply, indeed, was the anxious mother now repaid for all her misery, by this perfect communion of love and faith, and by the delight with which she saw her beloved child—like the young antelope, when first led by her dam to the well—drink thirstily by her side, at the source of all life and truth.

"But such happiness was not long to last. The anxieties that Theora had suffered began to prey upon her health. She felt her strength daily decline; and the thoughts of leaving, alone and unguarded in the world, that treasure which she had just devoted to Heaven, gave her a feeling of despair which but hastened the ebb of life. Had she put in practice her resolution of flying from this place, her child might have been now beyond the reach of all she dreaded, and in the solitude of the desert would have found at least safety from wrong. But the very happiness she had felt in her new task diverted her from this project;—and it was now too late, for she was already dying.

"She still continued, however, to conceal the state of her health from the tender and sanguine girl, who, though observing the traces of disease on her mother's cheek, little knew that they were the hastening footsteps of death, nor even thought of the possibility of ever losing what was so dear to her. Too soon, however, the moment of separation arrived; and while the anguish and dismay of Alethe were in proportion to the security in which she had indulged, Theora, too, felt, with bitter regret, that she had sacrificed to her fond consideration much precious time, and that there now remained but a few brief and painful moments, for the communication of all those wishes and instructions on which the future destiny of the young orphan depended.

"She had, indeed, time for little more than to place the sacred volume solemnly in her hands; to implore that she would, at all risks, fly from this unholy place; and, pointing in the direction of the mountains of the Saïd, to name, with her last breath, the venerable man, to whom, under Heaven, she looked for the protection and salvation of her child.

"The first violence of feeling to which Alethe gave way was succeeded by a fixed and tearless grief, which rendered her insensible, for some time, to the dangers of her situation. Her sole comfort consisted in visiting that monumental chapel where the beautiful remains of Theora lay. There, night after night, in contemplation of those placid features, and in prayers for the peace of the de-

parted spirit, did she pass her lonely and — however sad they were — happiest hours. Though the mystic emblems that decorated that chapel were but ill-suited to the slumber of a Christian, there was one among them, the Cross, which, by a remarkable coincidence, is an emblem alike common to the Gentile and the Christian — being, to the former, a shadowy type of that immortality, of which, to the latter, it is a substantial and assuring pledge.

"Nightly, upon this cross, which she had often seen her lost mother kiss, did she breathe forth a solemn and heartfelt vow, never to abandon the faith which that departed spirit had bequeathed to her. To such enthusiasm, indeed, did her heart at such moments rise, that, but for the last injunctions from those pallid lips, she would, at once, have avowed her perilous secret, and boldly pronounced the words, 'I am a Christian,' among those benighted shrines!

"But the will of her, to whom she owed more than life, was to be obeyed. To escape from this haunt of superstition must now, she felt, be her first object; and, in planning the means of effecting it, her mind, day and night, was employed. It was with a loathing not to be concealed, that she now found herself compelled to resume her idolatrous services at the shrine. To some of the offices of Theora she succeeded, as is the custom, by inheritance; and in the performance of these tasks — sanctified as they were in her eyes by the pure spirit she had seen engaged in them — there was a sort of melancholy pleasure in which her sorrow found relief. But the part she was again forced to take, in the scenic shows of the Mysteries, brought with it a sense of degradation and wrong which she could no longer endure.

"Already had she formed, in her own mind, a plan of escape, in which her acquaintance with all the windings of this mystic realm gave her confidence, when the solemn reception of Alciphron, as an Initiate, took place.

"From the first moment of the landing of that philosopher at Alexandria, he had become an object of suspicion and watchfulness to the inquisitorial Orcus, whom philosophy, in any shape, naturally alarmed, but to whom the sect over which the young Athenian presided was particularly obnoxious. The accomplishments of Alciphron, his popularity, wherever he went, and the bold freedom with which he indulged his wit at the expense of religion, were all faithfully reported to the High Priest by his spies, and awakened in his mind no kindly feelings towards the stranger. In dealing with an infidel, such a personage as Orcus could know no other alternative, but that of either converting or destroying him; and though his spite, as a man, would have been more gratified by the latter proceeding, his pride, as a priest, led him to prefer the triumph of the former.

"The first descent of the Epicurean into the pyramid became speedily known, and the alarm was immediately given to the priests below. As soon as they had discovered that the young philosopher of Athens was the intruder, and that he not only still continued to linger round the pyramid, but was observed to look often and wistfully towards the portal, it was concluded that his curiosity would impel him to try a second descent; and Orcus, blessing the good chance which had thus brought the wild bird into his net, resolved not to suffer an opportunity so precious to be wasted.

"Instantly, the whole of that wonderful machinery, by which the phantasms and illusions of Initiation are produced, were put in active preparation throughout that subterranean realm; and the increased stir and vigilance awakened among its inmates, by this more than ordinary display of the resources of priestcraft, rendered the accomplishment of Alethe's purpose, at such a moment, peculiarly difficult. Wholly ignorant of the important share which it had been her own fortune to take in attracting the young philosopher down to this region, she but heard of him vaguely, as the Chief of a great Grecian sect, who had been led, by either curiosity or accident, to expose himself to the first trials of Initiation; and whom the priests, she could see, were endeavouring to insnare in their toils, by every art and lure with which their dark science had gifted them.

"To her mind, the image of a philosopher, such as Alciphron had been represented to her, came associated with ideas of age and reverence; and, more than once, the possibility of his being made instrumental to her deliverance flashed a hope across her heart in which she could not refrain from indulging. Often had she been told by Theora of the many Gentile sages, who had laid their wisdom down humbly at the foot of the Cross; and though this Initiate, she feared, could hardly be among the number, yet the rumours which she had gathered from the servants of the Temple, of his undisguised contempt for the errors of Heathenism, led her to hope she might find tolerance, if not sympathy, in her appeal to him.

"Nor was it solely with a view to her own chance of deliverance that she thus connected him in her thoughts with the plan which she meditated. The look of proud and self-gratulating malice, with which the High Priest had mentioned this 'Infidel,' as he styled him, when giving her instructions in the scene she was to act before the philosopher in the

valley, too plainly informed her of the dark destiny that hung over him. She knew how many were the hapless candidates for Initiation who had been doomed to a durance worse than that of the grave, for but a word, a whisper, breathed against the sacred absurdities that they witnessed; and it was evident to her that the venerable Greek (for such her fancy represented Alciphron) was no less interested in escaping from the snares and perils of this region than herself.

"Her own resolution was, at all events, fixed. That visionary scene, in which she had appeared before Alciphron—little knowing how ardent were the heart and imagination over which her beauty, at that moment, exercised its influence—was, she solemnly resolved, the very last unholy service, that superstition or imposture should ever command of her.

"On the following night the Aspirant was to watch in the Great Temple of Isis. Such an opportunity of approaching and addressing him might never come again. Should he, from compassion for her situation, or a sense of the danger of his own, consent to lend his aid to her flight, most gladly would she accept it—well assured that no danger or treachery she might risk could be half so odious and fearful as those which she left behind. Should he, on the contrary, reject the proposal, her determination was equally fixed—to trust to that God whose eye watches over the innocent, and go forth alone.

"To reach the island in Lake Mœris was her first great object; and there occurred fortunately, at this time, a mode of effecting her purpose, by which both the difficulty and dangers of the attempt would be much diminished. The day of the annual visitation of the High Priest to the Place of Weeping[1]—as that island in the centre of the Lake is called—was now fast approaching; and Alethe knew that the self-moving car, by which the High Priest and one of the Hierophants are conveyed down to the chambers under the Lake, stood then waiting in readiness. By availing herself of this expedient, she would gain the double advantage both of facilitating her own flight, and retarding the speed of her pursuers.

"Having paid a last visit to the tomb of her beloved mother, and wept there, long and passionately, till her heart almost failed in the struggle—having paused, too, to give a kiss to her favourite ibis, which, although too much a Christian to worship, she was still child enough to love—she went early, with a trembling step, to the Sanctuary, and there hid herself in one of the recesses of the Shrine. Her intention was to steal out from thence to Alciphron, while it was yet dark, and before the illumination of the great Statue behind the Veils had begun. But her fears delayed her till it was almost too late;—already was the image lighted up, and still she remained trembling in her hiding-place.

"In a few minutes more the mighty Veils would have been withdrawn, and the glories of that scene of enchantment laid open—when, at length, summoning all her courage, and taking advantage of a momentary absence of those employed in preparing this splendid mockery, she stole from under the Veil, and found her way, through the gloom, to the Epicurean. There was then no time for explanation;—she had but to trust to the simple words, 'Follow, and be *silent*;' and the implicit readiness with which she found them obeyed filled her with no less surprise than the philosopher himself had felt in hearing them.

"In a second or two they were on their way through the subterranean windings, leaving the ministers of Isis to waste their splendours on vacancy, through a long series of miracles and visions which they now exhibited—unconscious that he, whom they were taking such pains to dazzle, was already, under the guidance of the young Christian, far removed beyond the reach of their deceiving spells."

[1] Vide *Wilford, Asiatic Researches*, vol. iii. p. 340.

CHAPTER XIV.

Such was the singular story, of which this innocent girl now gave me, in her own touching language, the outline.

The sun was just rising as she finished her narrative. Fearful of encountering the expression of those feelings with which, she could not but observe, I was affected by her recital, scarcely had she concluded the last sentence, when, rising abruptly from her seat, she hurried into the pavilion, leaving me with the words fast crowding for utterance to my lips.

Oppressed by the various emotions thus sent back upon my heart, I lay down on the deck in a state of agitation, that defied even the most distant approaches of sleep. While every word she had uttered, every feeling she expressed, but ministered new fuel to that flame which consumed me; and to describe which, passion is far too weak a word, there was also much of her recital that disheartened and alarmed me. To find a Christian

thus under the garb of a Memphian Priestess, was a discovery that, had my heart been less deeply interested, would but have more powerfully stimulated my imagination and pride. But, when I recollected the austerity of the faith she had embraced —the tender and sacred tie, associated with it in her memory, and the devotion of woman's heart to objects thus consecrated—her very perfections but widened the distance between us, and all that most kindled my passion at the same time chilled my hopes.

Were we to be left to each other, as on this silent river, in such undisturbed communion of thoughts and feelings, I knew too well, I thought, both her sex's nature and my own, to feel a doubt that love would ultimately triumph. But the severity of the guardianship to which I must resign her—that of some monk of the desert, some stern Solitary—the influence such a monitor would gain over her mind—and the horror with which, ere long, he might teach her to regard the reprobate infidel upon whom she now smiled—in all this prospect I saw nothing but despair. After a few short hours, my dream of happiness would be at an end, and such a dark chasm must then open between our fates, as would dissever them, wide as earth from heaven, asunder.

It was true, she was now wholly in my power. I feared no witnesses but those of earth, and the solitude of the desert was at hand. But though I acknowledged not a heaven, I worshipped her who was, to me, its type and substitute. If, at any moment, a single thought of wrong or deceit, towards one so sacred arose in my mind, one look from her innocent eyes averted the sacrilege. Even passion itself felt a holy fear in her presence —like the flame trembling in the breeze of the sanctuary—and Love, pure Love, stood in place of Religion.

As long as I knew not her story, I could indulge, at least, in dreams of the future. But, now—what expectation, what prospect remained? My single chance of happiness lay in the hope, however delusive, of being able to divert her thoughts from the fatal project she meditated; of weaning her, by persuasion and argument, from that austere faith, which I had before hated and now feared; and of attaching her, perhaps, alone and unlinked as she was in the world, to my own fortunes for ever!

In the agitation of these thoughts, I had started from my resting place, and continued to pace up and down, under a burning sun, till, exhausted both by thought and feeling, I sunk down, amid that blaze of light, into a sleep, which to my fevered brain seemed a sleep of fire.

On awaking, I found the veil of Alethe laid carefully over my brow; while she, herself, sat near me, under the shadow of the sail, looking anxiously upon that leaf, which her mother had given her, and employed apparently in comparing its outlines with the course of the river, as well as with the forms of the rocky hills by which we were passing. She looked pale and troubled, and rose eagerly to meet me, as if she had long and impatiently waited for my waking.

Her heart, it was plain, had been disturbed from its security, and was beginning to take alarm at its own feelings. But, though vaguely conscious of the peril to which she was exposed, her reliance, as is usual in such cases, increased with her danger, and upon me, far more than on herself, did she seem to depend for saving her. To reach, as soon as possible, her asylum in the desert, was now the urgent object of her entreaties and wishes; and the self-reproach which she expressed at having, for a single moment, suffered her thoughts to be diverted from this sacred purpose, not only revealed the truth, that she *had* forgotten it, but betrayed even a glimmering consciousness of the cause.

Her sleep, she said, had been broken by ill-omened dreams. Every moment the shade of her mother had stood before her, rebuking, with mournful looks, her delay, and pointing, as she had done in death, to the eastern hills. Bursting into tears at this accusing recollection, she hastily placed the leaf, which she had been examining, in my hands, and implored that I would ascertain, without a moment's delay, what portion of our voyage was still unperformed, and in what space of time we might hope to accomplish it.

I had, still less than herself, taken note of either place or distance; and could we have been left to glide on in this dream of happiness, should never have thought of pausing to ask where it would end. But such confidence was far too sacred to be deceived; and, reluctant as I naturally felt, to enter on an inquiry, which might soon dissipate even my last hope, her wish was sufficient to supersede even the selfishness of love, and on the instant I proceeded to obey her will.

There stands on the eastern bank of the Nile, to the north of Antinoë, a high and steep rock, impending over the flood, which has borne, for ages, from a prodigy connected with it, the name of the Mountain of the Birds. Yearly, it is said, at a certain season and hour, large flocks of birds assemble in the ravine, of which this rocky mountain forms one of the sides, and are there observed to go through the mysterious ceremony of inserting each its beak into a particular cleft of the rock, till the cleft closes upon one of their number, when all

the rest of the birds take wing, and leave the selected victim to die.

Through the ravine, rendered famous by this charm — for such the multitude consider it — there ran, in ancient times, a canal from the Nile, to some great and forgotten city, now buried in the desert. To a short distance from the river this canal still exists, but, after having passed through the defile, its scanty waters disappear, and are wholly lost under the sands.

It was in the neighbourhood of this place, as I could collect from the delineations on the leaf — where a flight of birds represented the name of the mountain — that the abode of the Solitary, to whom Alethe was about to consign herself, was situated. Little as I knew of the geography of Egypt, it at once struck me, that we had long since left this mountain behind [1]; and, on inquiring of our boatmen, I found my conjecture confirmed. We had, indeed, passed it, on the preceding night; and, as the wind had been, ever since, blowing strongly from the north, and the sun was already sinking towards the horizon, we must be now, at least, a day's sail to the southward of the spot.

This discovery, I confess, filled my heart with a feeling of joy which I found it difficult to conceal. It seemed as if fortune was conspiring with love in my behalf, and, by thus delaying the moment of our separation, afforded me a chance at least of happiness. Her look and manner, too, when informed of our mistake, rather encouraged than chilled this secret hope. In the first moment of astonishment, her eyes opened upon me with a suddenness of splendour, under which I felt my own wink as though lightning had crossed them. But she again, as suddenly, let their lids fall, and, after a quiver of her lip, which showed the conflict of feeling then going on within, crossed her arms upon her bosom, and looked down silently upon the deck; her whole countenance sinking into an expression, sad, but resigned, as if she now felt that fate was on the side of wrong, and saw Love already stealing between her soul and heaven.

I was not slow, of course, in availing myself of what I fancied to be the irresolution of her mind. But, still, fearful of exciting alarm by any appeal to feelings of regard or tenderness, I but addressed myself to her imagination, and to that love of novelty and wonders, which is ever ready to be awakened within the youthful breast. We were now approaching that region of miracles, Thebes. "In a day or two," said I, "we shall see, towering above the waters, the colossal Avenue of Sphinxes, and the bright Obelisks of the Sun. We shall visit the plain of Memnon, and behold those mighty statues that fling their shadows [2] at sunrise over the Libyan hills. We shall hear the image of the Son of the Morning responding to the first touch of light. From thence, in a few hours, a breeze like this will transport us to those sunny islands near the cataracts; there, to wander, among the sacred palm-groves of Philæ, or sit, at noontide hour, in those cool alcoves [3], which the waterfall of Syene shadows under its arch. Oh, who is there that, with scenes of such loveliness within reach, would turn coldly away to the bleak desert, and leave this fair world, with all its enchantments, shining unseen and unenjoyed? At least" — I added, taking tenderly her hand in mine — "let a few more days be stolen from the dreary fate to which thou hast devoted thyself, and then ——"

She had heard but the last few words — the rest had been lost upon her. Startled by the tone of tenderness into which, in despite of all my resolves, I had suffered my voice to soften, she looked for an instant with passionate earnestness into my face; — then, dropping upon her knees with her clasped hands upraised, exclaimed, — "Tempt me not, in the name of God I implore thee, tempt me not to swerve from my sacred duty. Oh! take me instantly to that desert mountain, and I will bless thee for ever."

This appeal, I felt, could not be resisted — even though my heart were to break for it. Having silently intimated my assent to her prayer, by a slight pressure of her hand as I raised her from the deck, I proceeded immediately, as we were still in full career, for the south, to give orders that our sail should be instantly lowered, and not a moment lost in retracing our course.

In giving these directions, however, it, for the first time, occurred to me, that, as I had hired this yacht in the neighbourhood of Memphis, where it was probable the flight of the young Priestess would be most vigilantly tracked, we should run the risk of betraying to the boatmen the place of her retreat; — and there was now a most favourable opportunity for taking precautions against this danger. De-

[1] The voyages on the Nile are, under favourable circumstances, performed with considerable rapidity. "En cinq ou six jours," says *Maillet*, "on pourroit aisément remonter de l'embouchure du Nil à ses cataractes, ou descendre des cataractes jusqu'à la mer." The great uncertainty of the navigation is proved by what *Belzoni* tells us: — "Nous ne mîmes cette fois que deux jours et demi pour faire le trajet du Caire à Melawi, auquel, dans notre second voyage, nous avions employés dix-huit jours."

[2] "Elles ont près de vingt mètres (61 pieds) d'élévation; et au lever du soleil, leurs ombres immenses s'étendent au loin sur la chaîne Libyenne." *Description générale de Thèbes, par MM. Jollois et Desvilliers.*

[3] *Paul Lucas.*

siring therefore, that we should be landed at a small village on the shore, under pretence of paying a visit to some shrine in the neighbourhood, I there dismissed our barge, and was relieved from fear of further observation, by seeing it again set sail, and resume its course fleetly up the current.

From the boats of all descriptions that lay idle beside the bank, I now selected one, in every respect, suited to my purpose—being, in its shape and accommodations, a miniature of our former vessel, but, at the same time, so light and small as to be manageable by myself alone, and requiring, with the advantage of the current, little more than a hand to steer it. This boat I succeeded, without much difficulty, in purchasing, and, after a short delay, we were again afloat down the current;—the sun just then sinking, in conscious glory, over his own golden shrines in the Libyan waste.

The evening was calmer and more lovely than any that had yet smiled upon our voyage; and, as we left the shore, a strain of sweet melody came soothingly over our ears. It was the voice of a young Nubian girl, whom we saw kneeling before an acacia, upon the bank, and singing, while her companions stood around, the wild song of invocation, which, in her country, they address to that enchanted tree:—

"Oh! Abyssinian tree,
We pray, we pray to thee;
By the glow of thy golden fruit,
And the violet hue of thy flower,
And the greeting mute
Of thy bough's salute
To the stranger who seeks thy bower[1]

"Oh! Abyssinian tree,
How the traveller blesses thee,
When the night no moon allows,
And the sunset hour is near,
And thou bend'st thy boughs
To kiss his brows,
Saying, 'Come, rest thee here.'
Oh! Abyssinian tree,
Thus bow thy head to me!"

In the burden of this song the companions of the young Nubian joined; and we heard the words, "Oh! Abyssinian tree," dying away on the breeze, long after the whole group had been lost to our eyes.

Whether, in the new arrangement which I had made for our voyage, any motive, besides those which I professed, had a share, I can scarcely, even myself—so bewildered were then my feelings—determine. But no sooner had the current borne us away from all human dwellings, and we were alone on the waters, with not a soul near, than I felt how closely such solitude draws hearts together, and how much more we seemed to belong to each other, than when there were eyes around us.

The same feeling, but without the same sense of its danger, was manifest in every look and word of Alethe. The consciousness of the one great effort which she had made appeared to have satisfied her heart on the score of duty—while the devotedness with which she saw I attended to her every wish, was felt with all that trusting gratitude which, in woman, is the day-spring of love. She was, therefore, happy, innocently happy; and the confiding, and even affectionate, unreserve of her manner, while it rendered my trust more sacred, made it also far more difficult.

It was only, however, upon subjects unconnected with our situation or fate, that she yielded to such interchange of thought, or that her voice ventured to answer mine. The moment I alluded to the destiny that awaited us, all her cheerfulness fled, and she became saddened and silent. When I described to her the beauty of my own native land—its founts of inspiration and fields of glory—her eyes sparkled with sympathy, and sometimes even softened into fondness. But when I ventured to whisper, that, in that glorious country, a life full of love and liberty awaited her; when I proceeded to contrast the adoration and bliss she might command, with the gloomy austerities of the life to which she was hastening—it was like the coming of a sudden cloud over a summer sky. Her head sunk, as she listened;—I waited in vain for an answer; and when, half playfully reproaching her for this silence, I stooped to take her hand, I could feel the warm tears fast falling over it.

But even this—feeble as was the hope it held out—was still a glimpse of happiness. Though it foreboded that I should lose her, it also whispered that I was loved. Like that lake, in the land of Roses[2], whose waters are half sweet, half bitter[3], I felt my fate to be a compound of bliss and pain—but its very pain well worth all ordinary bliss.

And thus did the hours of that night pass along; while every moment shortened our happy dream, and the current seemed to flow with a swifter pace than any that ever yet hurried to the sea. Not a feature of the whole scene but lives, at this moment, freshly in my memory;—the broken starlight on the water;—the rippling sound of the boat, as, without oar or sail, it went, like a thing of enchantment, down the stream;—the scented fire, burning beside us upon the deck, and then that face, on which its light fell, revealing, at every moment,

[1] See an account of this sensitive tree, which bends down its branches to those who approach it, in M. Jomard's Description of Syene and the Cataracts.

[2] The province of Arsinoë, now Fioum.

[3] *Paul Lucas.*

some new charm—some blush or look, more beautiful than the last!

Often, while I sat gazing, forgetful of all else, in this world, our boat, left wholly to itself, would drive from its course, and bearing us away to the bank, get entangled in the water flowers, or be caught in some eddy, ere I perceived where we were. Once, too, when the rustling of my oar among the flowers had startled away from the bank some wild antelopes, that had stolen, at that still hour, to drink of the Nile, what an emblem did I think it of the young heart then beside me—tasting, for the first time, of hope and love, and so soon, alas, to be scared from their sweetness for ever!

CHAPTER XV.

The night was now far advanced—the bend of our course towards the left, and the closing in of the eastern hills upon the river, gave warning of our approach to the hermit's dwelling. Every minute now appeared like the last of existence; and I felt a sinking of despair at my heart, which would have been intolerable, had not a resolution that suddenly, and as if by inspiration, occurred to me, presented a glimpse of hope, which, in some degree, calmed my feelings.

Much as I had, all my life, despised hypocrisy—the very sect I had embraced being chiefly recommended to me by the war they continued to wage upon the cant of all others—it was, nevertheless, in hypocrisy that I now scrupled not to take refuge from that calamity which to me was far worse than either shame or death, my separation from Alethe. In my despair, I adopted the humiliating plan—deeply humiliating as I felt it to be, even amid the joy with which I welcomed it—of offering myself to this hermit, as a convert to his faith, and thus becoming the fellow-disciple of Alethe under his care!

From the moment I resolved upon this plan my spirit felt lightened. Though having fully before my eyes the mean labyrinth of imposture into which it would lead me, I thought of nothing but the chance of our continuing still together. In this hope, all pride, all philosophy, was forgotten, and every thing seemed tolerable, but the prospect of losing her.

Thus resolved, it was with somewhat less reluctant feelings that I now undertook, at the anxious desire of my companion, to ascertain the site of that well-known mountain in the neighbourhood of which the anchoret's dwelling lay. We had already passed one or two stupendous rocks, which stood, detached, like fortresses, over the river's brink, and which in some degree corresponded with the description on the leaf. So little was there of life now stirring along the shores, that I had begun almost to despair of any assistance from inquiry, when, on looking to the western bank, I saw a boatman among the sedges, towing his small boat, with some difficulty, up the current. Hailing him as we passed, I asked,—"Where stands the Mountain of the Birds[1]?"—and he had hardly time, as he pointed above us, to answer "There," when we perceived that we were just then entering into the shadow, which this mighty rock flings across the whole of the flood.

In a few moments we had reached the mouth of the ravine, of which the Mountain of the Birds forms one of the sides, and through which the scanty canal from the Nile flows. At the sight of this awful chasm, within some of whose dreary recesses (if we had rightly interpreted the leaf) the dwelling of the Solitary was to be found, our voices sunk at once into a low whisper, while Alethe turned round to me with a look of awe and eagerness, as if doubtful whether I had not already disappeared from her side. A quick movement, however, of her hand towards the ravine, told too plainly that her purpose was still unchanged. Immediately checking, therefore, with my oars, the career of our boat, I succeeded, after no small exertion, in turning it out of the current of the river, and steering into this bleak and stagnant canal.

Our transition from life and bloom to the very depth of desolation was immediate. While the water on one side of the ravine lay buried in shadow, the white skeleton-like crags of the other stood aloft in the pale glare of moonlight. The sluggish stream through which we moved yielded sullenly to the oar, and the shriek of a few water-birds, which we had roused from their fastnesses, was succeeded by a silence, so dead and awful, that our lips seemed afraid to disburb it by a breath; and half-whispered exclamations, "How dreary!"—"How dismal!"—were almost the only words exchanged between us.

We had proceeded for some time through this gloomy defile, when, at a short distance before us, among the rocks upon which the moonlight fell, we could perceive, on a ledge elevated but a little above the canal, a small hut or cave, which, from

[1] There has been much controversy among the Arabian writers, with respect to the site of this mountain, for which see *Quatremère*, tom. i. art. *Amoun*.

a tree or two planted around it, had some appearance of being the abode of a human being. "This, then," thought I, "is the home to which she is destined!"—A chill of despair came again over my heart, and the oars, as I sat gazing, lay motionless in my hands.

I found Alethe, too, whose eyes had caught the same object, drawing closer to my side than she had yet ventured. Laying her hand agitatedly upon mine, "We must here," said she, "part for ever." I turned to her as she spoke; there was a tenderness, a despondency, in her countenance, that at once saddened and inflamed my soul. "Part!" I exclaimed, passionately—"No!—the same God shall receive us both. Thy faith, Alethe, shall, from this hour, be mine; and I will live and die in this desert with thee!"

Her surprise, her delight, at these words was like a momentary delirium. The wild, anxious smile, with which she looked into my face, as if to ascertain whether she had indeed heard my words aright, bespoke a happiness too much for reason to bear. At length, the fulness of her heart found relief in tears; and, murmuring forth an incoherent blessing on my name, she let her head fall languidly and powerlessly on my arm. The light from our boat-fire shone upon her face. I saw her eyes, which she had closed for a moment, again opening upon me with the same tenderness, and—merciful Providence, how I remember that moment!—was on the point of bending down my lips towards hers, when, suddenly, in the air above us, as if coming direct from heaven, there burst forth a strain of choral music, that with its solemn sweetness filled the whole valley.

Breaking away from my caress at these supernatural sounds, the maiden threw herself trembling upon her knees, and, not daring to look up, exclaimed wildly, "My mother, oh my mother!"

It was the Christian's morning hymn that we heard;—the same, as I learned afterwards, that, on their high terrace at Memphis, she had been taught by her mother to sing to the rising sun.

Scarcely less startled than my companion, I looked up, and saw, at the very summit of the rock above us, a light, appearing to come from a small opening or window, through which those sounds likewise, that had appeared to me so supernatural, issued. There could be no doubt, that we had now found—if not the dwelling of the anchoret—at least, the haunt of some of the Christian brotherhood of these rocks, by whose assistance we could not fail to find the place of his retreat.

The agitation, into which Alethe had been thrown by the first burst of that psalmody, soon yielded to the softening recollections which it brought back; and a calm came over her brow, such as it had never before worn, since we met. She seemed to feel as if she had now reached her destined haven, and hailed, as the voice of heaven itself, those solemn sounds by which she was welcomed to it.

In her tranquillity, however, I was very far from yet sympathising. Full of impatience to learn all that awaited her as well as myself, I pushed our boat close to the base of the rock, so as to bring it directly under that lighted window on the summit, to explore my way up to which was now my immediate object. Having hastily received my instructions from Alethe, and made her repeat again the name of the Christian whom we sought, I sprang upon the bank, and was not long in discovering a sort of path, or stairway, cut rudely out of the rock, and leading, as I found, by easy windings, up the steep.

After ascending for some time, I arrived at a level space or ledge, which the hand of labour had succeeded in converting into a garden [1], and which was planted, here and there, with fig-trees and palms. Around it, too, I could perceive, through the glimmering light, a number of small caves or grottos, into some of which, human beings might find an entrance; while others appeared of no larger dimensions than those tombs of the Sacred Birds which are seen ranged around Lake Mœris.

I was still, I found, but half-way up the ascent, nor was there visible any further means of continuing my course, as the mountain from hence rose, almost perpendicularly, like a wall. At length, however, on exploring more closely, I discovered behind the shade of a fig-tree a large ladder of wood, resting firmly against the rock, and affording an easy and safe ascent up the steep.

Having ascertained thus far, I again descended to the boat for Alethe, whom I found trembling already at her short solitude; and having led her up the stairway to this quiet garden, left her lodged there securely, amid its holy science, while I pursued my way upward to the light upon the rock.

At the top of the long ladder I found myself on another ledge or platform, somewhat smaller than the first, but planted in the same manner, with trees, and, as I could perceive by the mingled light of morning and the moon, embellished with flowers. I was now near the summit;—there remained but another short ascent, and, as a ladder against the rock supplied, as before, the means of scaling it,

[1] The monks of Mount Sinai (*Shaw* says) have covered over near four acres of the naked rocks with fruitful gardens and orchards.

I was in a few minutes at the opening from which the light issued.

I had ascended gently, as well from a feeling of awe at the whole scene, as from an unwillingness to disturb rudely the rites on which I intruded. My approach, therefore, being unheard, an opportunity was, for some moments, afforded me of observing the group within, before my appearance at the window was discovered.

In the middle of the apartment, which seemed to have been once a Pagan oratory, there was collected an assembly of about seven or eight persons, some male, some female, kneeling in silence round a small altar; — while, among them, as if presiding over their solemn ceremony, stood an aged man, who, at the moment of my arrival, was presenting to one of the female worshippers an alabaster cup, which she applied, with profound reverence, to her lips. The venerable countenance of the minister, as he pronounced a short prayer over her head, wore an expression of profound feeling that showed how wholly he was absorbed in that rite; and when she had drank of the cup — which I saw had engraven on its side the image of a head[1], with a glory round it — the holy man bent down and kissed her forehead.[2]

After this parting salutation, the whole group rose silently from their knees; and it was then, for the first time, that, by a cry of terror from one of the women, the appearance of a stranger at the window was discovered. The whole assembly seemed startled and alarmed, except him, that superior person, who, advancing from the altar, with an unmoved look, raised the latch of the door adjoining to the window, and admitted me.

There was, in this old man's features, a mixture of elevation and sweetness, of simplicity and energy, which commanded at once attachment and homage; and half hoping, half fearing, to find in him the destined guardian of Alethe, I looked anxiously in his face, as I entered, and pronounced the name "Melanius!" — "Melanius is my name, young stranger," he answered; "and whether in friendship or in enmity thou comest, Melanius blesses thee." Thus saying, he made a sign with his right hand above my head, while, with involuntary respect, I bowed beneath the benediction.

"Let this volume," I replied, "answer for the peacefulness of my mission" — at the same time, placing in his hands the copy of the Scriptures which had been his own gift to the mother of Alethe, and which her child now brought as the credential of her claims on his protection. At the sight of this sacred pledge, which he instantly recognised, the solemnity that had at first marked his reception of me softened into tenderness. Thoughts of other times appeared to pass through his mind; and as, with a sigh of recollection, he took the book from my hands, some words on the outer leaf caught his eye. They were few — but contained, most probably, the last wishes of the dying Theora; for, as he read them over eagerly, I saw tears in his aged eyes. "The trust," he said, with a faltering voice, "is precious and sacred, and God will enable, I hope, his servant to guard it faithfully."

During this short dialogue, the other persons of the assembly had departed — being, as I afterwards learned, brethren from the neighbouring bank of the Nile, who came thus secretly before daybreak[3], to join in worshipping their God. Fearful lest their descent down the rock might alarm Alethe, I hurried briefly over the few words of explanation that remained, and leaving the venerable Christian to follow at his leisure, hastened anxiously down to rejoin the young maiden.

CHAPTER XVI.

MELANIUS was one of the first of those zealous Christians of Egypt, who, following the recent example of the hermit, Paul, bade farewell to all the comforts of social existence, and betook themselves to a life of contemplation in the desert. Less selfish, however, in his piety, than most of these ascetics, Melanius forgot not the world in leaving it. He knew that man was not born to live wholly for himself; that his relation to human kind was that of the link to the chain, and that even his solitude should be turned to the advantage of others. In flying, therefore, from the din and disturbance of life, he sought not to place himself beyond the reach of its sympathies, but selected a retreat where he could combine all the advantages of solitude with those opportunities of being useful to his

[1] There was usually, *Tertullian* tells us, the image of Christ on the communion-cups.

[2] "We are rather disposed to infer," says the late *Bishop of Lincoln*, in his very sensible work on Tertullian, "that, at the conclusion of all their meetings for the purpose of devotion, the early Christians were accustomed to give the kiss of peace, in token of the brotherly love subsisting between them."

[3] It was among the accusations of *Celsus* against the Christians, that they held their assemblies privately, and contrary to law; and one of the speakers, in the curious work of *Minucius Felix*, calls the Christians "latebrosa et lucifugax natio."

fellow-men, which a neighbourhood to their populous haunts would afford.

That taste for the gloom of subterranean recesses, which the race of Misraim inherit from their Ethiopian ancestors, had, by hollowing out all Egypt into caverns and crypts, supplied these Christian anchorets with an ample choice of retreats. Accordingly, some found a shelter in the grottos of Elethya; — others, among the royal tombs of the Thebaïd. In the middle of the Seven Valleys[1], where the sun rarely shines, a few have fixed their dim and melancholy retreat; while others have sought the neighbourhood of the red Lakes of Nitria[2], and there, like those Pagan solitaries of old, who fixed their dwelling among the palm-trees near the Dead Sea, pass their whole lives in musing amidst the sterility of nature, and seem to find, in her desolation, peace.

It was on one of the mountains of the Saïd, to the east of the river, that Melanius, as we have seen, chose his place of seclusion — having all the life and fertility of the Nile on one side, and the lone, dismal barrenness of the desert on the other. Half way down this mountain, where it impends over the ravine, he found a series of caves or grottos dug out of the rock, which had, in other times, ministered to some purpose of mystery, but whose use had long been forgotten, and their recesses abandoned.

To this place, after the banishment of his great master, Origen, Melanius, with a few faithful followers, retired, and there, by the example of his innocent life, as well as by his fervid eloquence, succeeded in winning crowds of converts to his faith. Placed, as he was, in the neighbourhood of the rich city, Antinoë[3], though he mingled not with its multitude, his name and his fame were ever among them, and, to all who sought after instruction or consolation, the cell of the hermit was always open.

Notwithstanding the rigid abstinence of his own habits, he was yet careful to provide for the comforts of others. Content with a rude pallet of straw, himself, he had always for the stranger a less homely resting-place. From his grotto, the wayfaring and the indigent never went unrefreshed; and, with the aid of some of his brethren, he had formed gardens along the ledges of the mountain, which gave an air of life and cheerfulness to his rocky dwelling, and supplied him with the chief necessaries of such a climate — fruit and shade.

Though the acquaintance he had formed with the mother of Alethe, during the short period of her attendance at the school of Origen, was soon interrupted, and never afterwards renewed, the interest which he had then taken in her fate was far too lively to be forgotten. He had seen the zeal with which her young heart welcomed instruction; and the thought that so promising a candidate for heaven should have relapsed into idolatry, came often, with disquieting apprehension, over his mind.

It was, therefore, with true pleasure, that, but a year or two before Theora's death, he had learned by a private communication from her, transmitted through a Christian embalmer of Memphis, that "not only had her own heart taken root in the faith, but that a new bud had flowered with the same divine hope; and that, ere long, he might see them both transplanted to the desert."

The coming, therefore, of Alethe was far less a surprise to him, than her coming thus alone was a shock and a sorrow; and the silence of their first meeting showed how painfully both remembered that the tie which had brought them together was no longer of this world — that the hand, which should have been then joined with theirs, was mouldering in the tomb. I now saw, that even religion like his was not proof against the sadness of mortality. For, as the old man put aside the ringlets from her forehead, and contemplated in that clear countenance the reflection of what her mother had been, there mingled a mournfulness with his piety, as he said, "Heaven rest her soul!" which showed how little even the certainty of a heaven for those we love can reconcile us to the pain of having lost them on earth.

The full light of day had now risen upon the desert, and our host, reminded, by the faint looks of Alethe, of the many anxious hours we had passed without sleep, proposed that we should seek, in the chambers of the rock, such rest as a hermit's dwelling could offer. Pointing to one of the largest of these openings, as he addressed me — "Thou wilt find," he said, "in that grotto a bed of fresh doum leaves, and may the consciousness of having protected the orphan sweeten thy sleep!"

[1] See *Macrizy*'s account of these valleys, given by *Quatremère*, tom. i. p. 450.

[2] For a striking description of this region, see "*Rameses*," a work which, though in general too technical and elaborate, shows, in many passages, to what picturesque effects the scenery and mythology of Egypt may be made subservient.

[3] From the position assigned to Antinoë in this work, we should conclude that it extended much farther to the north, than the few ruins of it that remain would seem to indicate, and that the distance between the city and the Mountain of the Birds was considerably less than what it appears to be at present.

I felt how dearly this praise had been earned, and already almost repented of having deserved it. There was a sadness in the countenance of Alethe, as I took leave of her, to which the forebodings of my own heart but too faithfully responded; nor could I help fearing, as her hand parted lingeringly from mine, that I had, by this sacrifice, placed her beyond my reach for ever.

Having lighted for me a lamp, which, in these recesses, even at noon, is necessary, the holy man led me to the entrance of the grotto. And here, I blush to say, my career of hypocrisy began. With the sole view of obtaining another glance at Alethe, I turned humbly to solicit the benediction of the Christian, and, having conveyed to her, while bending reverently down, as much of the deep feeling of my soul as looks could express, I then, with a desponding spirit, hurried into the cavern.

A short passage led me to the chamber within—the walls of which I found covered, like those of the grottos of Lycopolis, with paintings, which, though executed long ages ago, looked as fresh as if their colours were but laid on yesterday. They were, all of them, representations of rural and domestic scenes; and, in the greater number, the melancholy imagination of the artist had called in, as usual, the presence of Death, to throw his shadow over the picture.

My attention was particularly drawn to one series of subjects, throughout the whole of which the same group—consisting of a youth, a maiden, and two aged persons, who appeared to be the father and mother of the girl—were represented in all the details of their daily life. The looks and attitudes of the young people denoted that they were lovers; and, sometimes, they were seen sitting under a canopy of flowers, with their eyes fixed on each other's faces, as though they could never look away; sometimes, they appeared walking along the banks of the Nile,—

> —— on one of those sweet nights
> When Isis, the pure star of lovers [1], lights
> Her bridal crescent o'er the holy stream—
> When wandering youths and maidens watch her beam,
> And number o'er the nights she hath to run,
> Ere she again embrace her bridegroom sun.[2]

Through all these scenes of endearment the two elder persons stood by;—their calm countenances touched with a share of that bliss, in whose perfect light the young lovers were basking. Thus far, all was happiness;—but the sad lesson of mortality was yet to come. In the last picture of the series, one of the figures was missing. It was that of the young maiden, who had disappeared from among them. On the brink of a dark lake stood the three who remained; while a boat, just departing for the City of the Dead, told too plainly the end of their dream of happiness.

This memorial of a sorrow of other times—of a sorrow, ancient as death itself—was not wanting to deepen the melancholy of my mind, or to add to the weight of the many bodings that pressed upon it.

After a night, as it seemed, of anxious and unsleeping thought, I rose from my bed and returned to the garden. I found the Christian alone—seated, under the shade of one of his trees, at a small table, on which there lay a volume unrolled, while a beautiful antelope was sleeping at his feet. Struck by the contrast which he presented to those haughty priests, whom I had seen surrounded by the pomp and gorgeousness of temples, "Is this, then," thought I, "the faith before which the world now trembles—its temple the desert, its treasury a book, and its High Priest the solitary dweller of the rock?"

He had prepared for me a simple, but hospitable repast, of which fruits from his own garden, the white bread of Olyra, and the juice of the honey-cane, formed the most costly luxuries. His manner to me was even more cordial and fatherly than before; but the absence of Alethe, and, still more, the ominous reserve, with which he not only, himself, refrained from all mention of her name, but eluded the few inquiries, by which I sought to lead to it, seemed to confirm all the apprehensions I had felt in parting from her.

She had acquainted him, it was evident, with the whole history of our flight. My reputation as a philosopher—my desire to become a Christian—all was already known to the zealous anchoret, and the subject of my conversion was the very first on which he entered. Oh, pride of philosophy, how wert thou then humbled, and with what shame did I stand in the presence of that venerable man, not daring to let my eyes encounter his, while, with unhesitating trust in the sincerity of my intention, he welcomed me to a participation of his holy hope, and imprinted the Kiss of Charity on my infidel brow!

Embarrassed as I could not but feel by the humiliating consciousness of hypocrisy, I was even still more perplexed by my almost total ignorance of the real tenets of the faith to which I professed myself a convert. Abashed and confused, and with a heart sick at its own deceit, I listened to the animated and eloquent gratulations of the Christian, as though they were words in a dream,

[1] Vide *Plutarch. de Isid.*

[2] "Conjunctio solis cum luna, quod est veluti utriusque connubium." *Jablonski.*

without any link or meaning; nor could disguise but by the mockery of a reverent bow, at every pause, the total want of self-possession, and even of speech, under which I laboured.

A few minutes more of such trial, and I must have avowed my imposture. But the holy man perceived my embarrassment;—and, whether mistaking it for awe, or knowing it to be ignorance, relieved me from my perplexity by, at once, changing the theme. Having gently awakened his antelope from its sleep, "You have doubtless," he said, "heard of my brother-anchoret, Paul, who, from his cave in the marble mountains, near the Red Sea, sends hourly the blessed 'sacrifice of thanksgiving' to heaven. Of *his* walks, they tell me, a lion is the companion[1]; but, for me," he added with a playful and significant smile, "who try my powers of taming but on the gentler animals, this feeble child of the desert is a far fitter playmate." Then, taking his staff, and putting the time-worn volume which he had been perusing into a large goat-skin pouch, that hung by his side, "I will now," said he, "conduct thee over my rocky kingdom, that thou mayest see in what drear and barren places that 'sweet fruit of the spirit,' Peace, may be gathered."

To speak of peace to a heart throbbing, as mine did, at that moment, was like talking of some distant harbour to the mariner sinking at sea. In vain did I look around for some sign of Alethe;—in vain make an effort even to utter her name. Consciousness of my own deceit, as well as a fear of awakening in the mind of Melanius any suspicion that might tend to frustrate my only hope, threw a fetter over my spirit, and checked my tongue. In humble silence, therefore, I followed; while the cheerful old man, with slow, but firm step, ascended the rock, by the same ladders which I had mounted on the preceding night.

During the time when the Decian Persecution was raging, many Christians, as he told me, of the neighbourhood had taken refuge under his protection, in these grottos; and the small chapel upon the summit, where I had found his flock at prayer, was, in those awful times of suffering, their usual place of retreat, where, by drawing up these ladders, they were enabled to secure themselves from pursuit.

The view, from the top of the rock, extending on either side, embraced the two extremes of fertility and desolation; nor could the Epicurean and the Anchoret, who now stood gazing from that height, be at any loss to indulge their respective tastes, between the living luxuriance of the world on one side, and the dead, pulseless repose of the desert on the other. When we turned to the river, what a picture of animation presented itself! Near us to the south, were the graceful colonnades of Antinoë, its proud, populous streets, and triumphal monuments. On the opposite shore, rich plains, all teeming with cultivation to the water's edge, seemed to offer up, as from verdant altars, their fruits to the sun; while, beneath us, the Nile

> —— the glorious stream,
> That late between its banks was seen to glide—
> With shrines and marble cities, on each side,
> Glittering, like jewels strung along a chain—
> Had now sent forth its waters, and o'er plain
> And valley, like a giant from his bed
> Rising with outstretch'd limbs, superbly spread.

From this scene, on one side of the mountain, we had but to turn round our eyes to the other, and it was as if Nature herself had become suddenly extinct;—a wide waste of sands, bleak and interminable, wearying out the sun with its sameness of desolation;—black, burnt-up rocks, that stood as barriers, at which life stopped;—while the only signs of animation, past or present, were the footprints, here and there, of an antelope or ostrich, or the bones of dead camels, as they lay whitening at a distance, marking out the track of the caravans over the waste.

After listening, while he contrasted, in a few eloquent words, the two regions of life and death on whose confines we stood, I again descended with my guide to the garden that we had left. From thence, turning into a path along the mountain-side, he led me to another row of grottos, facing the desert, which had been once, he said, the abode of those brethren in Christ, who had fled with him to this solitude from the crowded world—but which death had, within a few short months, rendered tenantless. A cross of red stone, and a few faded trees, were the only traces these solitaries had left behind.

A silence of some minutes succeeded, while we descended to the edge of the canal; and I saw opposite, among the rocks, that solitary cave, which had so chilled me with its aspect on the preceding night. Beside the bank we found one of those rustic boats, which the Egyptians construct of planks of wild thorn, bound rudely together with bands of papyrus. Placing ourselves in this boat, and rather impelling than rowing it across, we made our way through the foul and shallow flood, and landed directly under the site of the cave.

This dwelling was situated, as I have already mentioned, on a ledge of the rock; and, being provided with a sort of window or aperture

[1] *M. Châteaubriand* has introduced Paul and his lion into the *Martyrs*, liv. xi.

to admit the light of heaven, was accounted, I found, far more cheerful than the grottos on the other side of the ravine. But there was a dreariness in the whole region around, to which light only lent additional horror. The dead whiteness of the rocks, as they stood, like ghosts, in the sunshine;—that melancholy pool, half lost in the sands;—all gave to my mind the idea of a wasting world. To dwell in a place so desolate seemed to me a living death; and when the Christian, as we entered the cave, said, "Here is to be thy home," prepared as I had been for the worst, all my resolution gave way;—every feeling of disappointed passion and humbled pride, which had been gathering round my heart for the last few hours, found a vent at once, and I burst into tears.

Accustomed to human weakness, and perhaps guessing at some of the sources of mine, the good Hermit, without appearing to take any notice of this emotion, proceeded to expatiate, with a cheerful air, on, what he called, the comforts of my dwelling. Sheltered from the dry, burning wind of the south, my porch would inhale, he said, the fresh breeze of the Dog-star. Fruits from his own mountain-garden should furnish my repast. The well of the neighbouring rock would supply my beverage; and "here," he continued—lowering his voice into a more solemn tone, as he placed upon the table the volume which he had brought—"here, my son, is that 'well of living waters,' in which alone thou wilt find lasting refreshment or peace!" Thus saying, he descended the rock to his boat; and, after a few plashes of his oar had died upon my ear, the solitude and silence that reigned around me was complete.

CHAPTER XVII.

What a fate was mine!—but a few weeks since, presiding over that gay Festival of the Garden, with all the luxuries of existence tributary in my train; and now—self-humbled into a solitary outcast—the hypocritical pupil of a Christian anchoret—without even the excuse of religious fanaticism, or any other madness, but that of love, wild love, to extenuate my fall! Were there a hope that, by this humiliating waste of existence, I might purchase now and then a momentary glimpse of Alethe, even the depths of the desert, with such a chance, would be welcome. But to live—and live thus—*without* her, was a misery which I neither foresaw nor could endure.

Hating even to look upon the den to which I was doomed, I hurried out into the air, and found my way, along the rocks, to the desert. The sun was going down, with that blood-red hue, which he so often wears, in this climate, at his setting. I saw the sands, stretching out, like a sea to the horizon, as if their waste extended to the very verge of the world—and, in the bitterness of my feelings, rejoiced to see so large a portion of creation rescued, even by this barren liberty, from the encroaching grasp of man. The thought seemed to relieve my wounded pride, and, as I wandered over the dim and boundless solitude, to be thus free, even amidst blight and desolation, appeared to me a blessing.

The only living thing I saw was a restless swallow, whose wings were of the same hue with the grey sands over which he fluttered.[1] "Why (thought I) may not the mind, like this bird, partake of the colour of the desert, and sympathise in its austerity, its freedom, and its calm?"—thus vainly endeavouring, between despondence and defiance, to encounter with some degree of fortitude what yet my heart sickened to contemplate. But the effort was unavailing. Overcome by that vast solitude, whose repose was not the slumber of peace, but rather the sullen and burning silence of hate, I felt my spirit give way, and even love itself yielded to despair.

Taking my seat on a fragment of a rock, and covering my eyes with my hands, I made an effort to shut out the overwhelming prospect. But all in vain—it was still before me, with every additional horror that fancy could suggest; and when, again looking forth, I beheld the last red ray of the sun, shooting across the melancholy and lifeless waste, it appeared to me like the light of that comet which once desolated this world[2], and thus luridly shone out over the ruin that it had made!

Appalled by my own gloomy imaginations, I turned towards the ravine; and, notwithstanding the disgust with which I had fled from my dwelling, was not ill pleased to find my way, over the rocks, to it again. On approaching the cave, to

[1] "Je vis dans le désert des hirondelles d'un gris clair comme le sable sur lequel elles volent."—*Denon.*

[2] In alluding to Whiston's idea of a comet having caused the deluge, *M. Girard*, having remarked that the word Typhon means a deluge, adds, "On ne peut entendre par le tems du règne de Typhon qui celui pendant lequel le déluge inonda la terre, tems pendant lequel on dût observer la comète qui l'occasionna, et dont l'apparition fut, non seulement pour les peuples de l'Egypte, et de l'Ethiopie, mais encore pour tous peuples le présage funeste de leur destruction presque totale."—*Description de la Vallée de l'Egarement.*

my astonishment, I saw a light within. At such a moment, any vestige of life was welcome, and I hailed the unexpected appearance with pleasure. On entering, however, I found the chamber all as lonely as I had left it. The light I had seen came from a lamp that burned brightly on the table; beside it was unfolded the volume which Melanius had brought, and upon the open leaves — oh, joy and surprise — lay the well-known cross of Alethe!

What hand, but her own, could have prepared this reception for me? — The very thought sent a hope into my heart, before which all despondency fled. Even the gloom of the desert was forgotten, and my rude cave at once brightened into a bower. She had here reminded me, by this sacred memorial, of the vow which I had pledged to her under the Hermit's rock; and I now scrupled not to reiterate the same daring promise, though conscious that through hypocrisy alone I could fulfil it.

Eager to prepare myself for my task of imposture, I sat down to the volume, which I now found to be the Hebrew Scriptures; and the first sentence, on which my eyes fell, was — "The Lord hath commanded the blessing, even Life for evermore!" Startled by these words, in which it appeared to me as if the Spirit of my dream had again pronounced his assuring prediction [1], I raised my eyes from the page, and repeated the sentence over and over, as if to try whether in these sounds there lay any charm or spell, to re-awaken that faded illusion in my soul. But, no — the rank frauds of the Memphian priesthood had dispelled all my trust in the promises of religion. My heart had again relapsed into its gloom of scepticism, and, to the word of "Life," the only answer it sent back was, "Death!"

Being impatient, however, to possess myself of the elements of a faith, upon which — whatever it might promise for hereafter — I felt that all my happiness here depended, I turned over the pages with an earnestness and avidity, such as never even the most favourite of my studies had awakened in me. Though, like all who seek but the surface of learning, I flew desultorily over the leaves, lighting only on the more prominent and shining points, I yet found myself, even in this undisciplined career, arrested, at every page, by the awful, the supernatural sublimity, the alternate melancholy and grandeur of the images that crowded upon me.

I had, till now, known the Hebrew theology but through the platonising refinement of Philo; — as, in like manner, for my knowledge of the Christian doctrine I was indebted to my brother Epicureans, Lucian and Celsus. Little, therefore, was my mind prepared for the simple majesty, the high tone of inspiration — the poetry, in short, of heaven that breathed throughout these oracles. Could admiration have kindled faith, I should, that night, have been a believer; so elevated, so awed, was my imagination by that wonderful book — its warnings of woe, its announcements of glory, and its unrivalled strains of adoration and sorrow.

Hour after hour, with the same eager and desultory curiosity, did I turn over the leaves; — and when, at length, I lay down to rest, my fancy was still haunted by the impressions it had received. I went again through the various scenes of which I had read; again called up, in sleep, the bright images that had passed before me; and when awakened at early dawn by the solemn Hymn from the chapel, imagined that I was still listening to the sound of the winds, sighing mournfully through the harps of Israel on the willows.

Starting from my bed, I hurried out upon the rock, with a hope that, among the tones of that morning choir, I might be able to distinguish the sweet voice of Alethe. But the strain had ceased; — I caught only the last notes of the Hymn, as, echoing up that lonely valley, they died away into the silence of the desert.

With the first glimpse of light I was again eagerly at my study, and, notwithstanding the frequent distraction both of my thoughts and looks towards the distant, half-seen grottos of the Anchoret, continued my task with unabating perseverance throughout the day. Still alive, however, only to the eloquence, the poetry of what I studied, of its claims to authority, as a history, I never once paused to consider. My fancy alone being interested by it, to fancy alone I referred all that it contained; and, passing rapidly from annals to prophecy, from narration to song, regarded the whole but as a tissue of oriental allegories, in which the deep melancholy of Egyptian associations was interwoven with the rich and sensual imagery of the East.

Towards sunset I saw the venerable Hermit, on his way, across the canal, to my cave. Though he was accompanied only by his graceful antelope, which came snuffing the wild air of the desert, as if scenting its home, I felt his visit, even thus, to be a most welcome relief. It was the hour, he said, of his evening ramble up the mountain — of his accustomed visit to those cisterns of the rock,

[1] "Many people," said *Origen*, "have been brought over to Christianity by the Spirit of God giving a sudden turn to their minds, and offering visions to them either by day or night." On this *Jortin* remarks: — "Why should it be thought improbable that Pagans of good dispositions, but not free from prejudices, should have been called by divine admonitions, by dreams or visions, which might be a support to Christianity in those days of distress?"

from which he drew nightly his most precious beverage. While he spoke, I observed in his hand one of those earthen cups[1], in which it is the custom of the inhabitants of the wilderness to collect the fresh dew among the rocks. Having proposed that I should accompany him in his walk, he proceeded to lead me, in the direction of the desert, up the side of the mountain that rose above my dwelling, and which formed the southern wall or screen of the defile.

Near the summit we found a seat, where the old man paused to rest. It commanded a full view over the desert, and was by the side of one of those hollows in the rock, those natural reservoirs, in which are treasured the dews of night for the refreshment of the dwellers in the wilderness. Having learned from me how far I had advanced in my study—"In yonder light," said he, pointing to a small cloud in the east, which had been formed on the horizon by the haze of the desert, and was now faintly reflecting the splendours of sunset—"in the midst of that light stands Mount Sinai, of whose glory thou hast read; upon whose summit was the scene of one of those awful revelations, in which the Almighty has renewed from time to time his communication with Man, and kept alive the remembrance of his own Providence in this world."

After a pause, as if absorbed in the immensity of the subject, the holy man continued his sublime theme. Looking back to the earliest annals of time, he showed how constantly every relapse of the human race into idolatry has been followed by some manifestation of Divine power, chastening the strong and proud by punishment, and winning back the humble by love. It was to preserve, he said, unextinguished upon earth, that great and vital truth—the Creation of the world by one Supreme Being—that God chose, from among the nations, an humble and enslaved race—that he brought them out of their captivity "on eagles' wings," and, still surrounding every step of their course with miracles, has placed them before the eyes of all succeeding generations, as the depositaries of his will and the ever-during memorials of his power.[2]

Passing, then, in review the long train of inspired interpreters, whose pens and whose tongues were made the echoes of the Divine voice[3], he traced throughout the events of successive ages, the gradual unfolding of the dark scheme of Providence—darkness without, but all light and glory within. The glimpses of a coming redemption, visible even through the wrath of Heaven;—the long series of prophecy through which this hope runs, burning and alive, like a spark along a chain;—the slow and merciful preparation of the hearts of mankind for the great trial of their faith and obedience that was at hand, not only by miracles that appealed to the living, but by prophecies launched into the future to carry conviction to the yet unborn;—"through all these glorious and beneficent gradations we may track," said he, "the manifest footsteps of a Creator, advancing to his grand, ultimate end, the salvation of his creatures."

After some hours devoted to these holy instructions, we returned to the ravine, and Melanius left me at my cave; praying, as he parted from me—with a benevolence which I but ill, alas! deserved—that my soul might, under these lessons, be "as a watered garden," and, ere long, "bear fruit unto life eternal."

Next morning, I was again at my study, and even more eager in the awakening task than before. With the commentary of the Hermit freshly in my memory, I again read through, with attention, the Book of the Law. But in vain did I seek the promise of immortality in its pages.[4] "It tells me," said I, "of a God coming down to earth, but of the ascent of Man to heaven it speaks not. The rewards, the punishments it announces, lie all on this side of the grave; nor did even the Omnipotent offer to his own chosen servants a hope beyond the impassable limits of this world. Where, then, is the salvation of which the Christian spoke? or, if Death be at the root of the faith, can Life spring out of it?"

Again, in the bitterness of disappointment, did I mock at my own willing self-delusion—again rail at the arts of that traitress, Fancy, ever ready, like the Delilah of this wondrous book, to steal upon the slumbers of Reason, and deliver him up, shorn and

[1] *Palladius*, who lived some time in Egypt, describes the monk Ptolemæus, who inhabited the desert of Scete, as collecting in earthen cups the abundant dew from the rocks."—*Bibliothec. Pat.* tom. xiii.

[2] The brief sketch here given of the Jewish dispensation agrees very much with the view taken of it by Dr. Sumner, in the first chapters of his eloquent work, the "Records of the Creation."

[3] In the original, the discourses of the Hermit are given much more at length.

[4] "It is impossible to deny," says Dr. Sumner, "that the sanctions of the Mosaic Law are altogether temporal..... It is, indeed, one of the facts that can only be explained by acknowledging that he really acted under a Divine commission, promulgating a temporary law for a peculiar purpose"—a much more candid and sensible way of treating this very difficult point, than by either endeavouring, like Warburton, to escape from it into a paradox, or, still worse, contriving, like Dr. Graves, to increase its difficulty by explanation.—Vide "*On the Pentateuch.*" See also *Horne's Introduction*, &c., vol. i. p. 226.

powerless, to his foes. If deception, thought I, be necessary, at least let me not practise it on myself;—in the desperate alternative before me, let me rather be even hypocrite than dupe.

These self-accusing reflections, cheerless as they rendered my task, did not abate, for a single moment, my industry in pursuing it. I read on and on, with a sort of sullen apathy, neither charmed by style, nor transported by imagery—the fatal blight in my heart having communicated itself to my imagination and taste. The curses and the blessings, the glory and the ruin, which the historian recorded and the prophet had predicted, seemed all of this world—all temporal and earthly. That mortality, of which the fountain-head had tasted, tinged the whole stream; and when I read the words, "all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again[1]," a feeling, like the wind of the desert, came witheringly over me. Love, Beauty, Glory, every thing most bright and worshipped upon earth, appeared to be sinking before my eyes, under this dreadful doom, into one general mass of corruption and silence.

Possessed by the image of desolation I had thus called up, I laid my head upon the book, in a paroxysm of despair. Death, in all his most ghastly varieties, passed before me; and I had continued thus for some time, as under the influence of a fearful vision, when the touch of a hand upon my shoulder roused me. Looking up, I saw the Anchoret standing by my side;—his countenance beaming with that sublime tranquillity, which a hope, beyond this earth, alone can bestow. How I did envy him!

We again took our way to the seat upon the mountain—the gloom within my own mind making every thing around me more gloomy. Forgetting my hypocrisy in my feelings, I proceeded at once to make an avowal to him of all the doubts and fears which my study of the morning had awakened.

"Thou art yet, my son," he answered, "but on the threshold of our faith. Thou hast seen but the first rudiments of the Divine plan;—its full and consummate perfection hath not yet opened upon thy mind. However glorious that manifestation of Divinity on Mount Sinai, it was but the forerunner of another, still more glorious, which, in the fulness of time, was to burst upon the world; when all, that before had seemed dim and incomplete, was to be perfected, and the promises, shadowed out by the 'spirit of prophecy,' realised;—when the seal of silence, under which the Future had so long lain, was to be broken, and the glad tidings of life and immortality proclaimed to the world!"

Observing my features brighten at these words, the pious man continued. Anticipating some of the holy knowledge that was in store for me, he traced, through all its wonders and mercies, the great work of Redemption, dwelling in detail upon every miraculous circumstance connected with it—the exalted nature of the Being, by whose ministry it was accomplished, the noblest and first created of the Sons of God[2], inferior only, to the one, self-existent Father;—the mysterious incarnation of this heavenly messenger;—the miracles that authenticated his divine mission;—the example of obedience to God and love to man, which he set, as a shining light, before the world for ever;—and, lastly and chiefly, his death and resurrection, by which the covenant of mercy was sealed, and "life and immortality brought to light."

"Such," continued the Hermit, "was the Mediator, promised through all time, to 'make reconciliation for iniquity,' to change death into life, and bring 'healing on his wings' to a darkened world. Such was the last crowning dispensation of that God of benevolence, in whose hands sin and death are but instruments of everlasting good, and who, through apparent evil and temporary retribution, bringing all things 'out of darkness into his marvellous light,' proceeds watchfully and unchangingly to the great, final object of his providence—the restoration of the whole human race to purity and happiness!"[3]

[1] While Voltaire, Volney, &c., refer to the Ecclesiastes, as abounding with tenets of materialism and Epicurism, M. Des Vœux and others find in it strong proofs of belief in a future state. The chief difficulty lies in the chapter from which this text is quoted; and the mode of construction by which some writers attempt to get rid of it—namely, by putting these texts into the mouth of a foolish reasoner—appears forced and gratuitous.—Vide *Dr. Hales's Analysis*.

[2] This opinion of the Hermit may be supposed to have been derived from his master, Origen; but it is not easy to ascertain the exact doctrine of Origen on this subject. In the Treatise on Prayer attributed to him, he asserts that God the Father alone should be invoked—which, says Bayle, is to "enchérir sur les Hérésies des Sociniens." Notwithstanding this, however, and some other indications of, what was afterwards called, Arianism, (such as the opinion of the divinity being received by *communication*, which *Milner* asserts to have been held by this Father,) Origen was one of the authorities quoted by Athanasius in support of his high doctrines of co-eternity and co-essentiality. What Priestley says is, perhaps, the best solution of these inconsistencies:—"Origen, as well as Clemens Alexandrinus, has been thought to favour the Arian principles; but he did it only in words, and not in ideas."—*Early Opinions, &c.* Whatever uncertainty, however, there may exist with respect to the opinion of Origen himself on this subject, there is no doubt that the doctrines of his immediate followers were, at least, Anti-Athanasian. "So many Bishops of Africa," says Priestley, "were, at this period (between the year 255 and 258), Unitarians, that Athanasius says, 'The Son of God'—meaning his divinity—'was scarcely any longer preached in the churches.'"

[3] This benevolent doctrine—which not only goes far to solve the great problem of moral and physical evil, but which

With a mind astonished, if not touched, by these discourses, I returned to my cave, and found the lamp, as before, ready lighted to receive me. The volume which I had been hitherto studying, was replaced by another, which lay open upon the table, with a branch of fresh palm between its leaves. Though I could not doubt to whose gentle and guardian hand I was indebted for this invisible watchfulness over my studies, there was yet a something in it, so like spiritual interposition, that it struck me with awe;—and never more than at this moment, when, on approaching the volume, I saw, as the light glistened over its silver letters[1], that it was the very Book of Life of which the Hermit had spoken!

The midnight hymn of the Christians had sounded through the valley, before I had yet raised my eyes from that sacred volume; and the second hour of the sun found me again over its pages.

CHAPTER XVIII.

In this mode of existence I had now passed some days;—my mornings devoted to reading, my nights to listening, under the wide canopy of heaven, to the holy eloquence of Melanius. The perseverance with which I inquired, and the quickness with which I learned, soon succeeded in deceiving my benevolent instructor, who mistook curiosity for zeal, and knowledge for belief. Alas! cold, and barren, and earthly was that knowledge—the word without the spirit, the shape without the life. Even when, as a relief from hypocrisy, I persuaded myself that I believed, it was but a brief delusion, a faith, whose hope crumbled at the touch—like the fruit of the desert-shrub[2], shining and empty!

But, though my soul was still dark, the good Hermit saw not into its depths. The very facility of my belief, which might have suggested some doubt of its sincerity, was but regarded, by his innocent zeal, as a more signal triumph of the truth. His own ingenuousness led him to a ready trust in others; and the examples of such conversion as that of the philosopher, Justin, who, during a walk by the sea-shore, received the light into his soul, had prepared him for illuminations of the spirit, even more rapid than mine.

During all this time, I neither saw nor heard of Alethe;—nor could my patience have endured through so long a privation, had not those mute vestiges of her presence, that welcomed me every night on my return, made me feel that I was still living under her gentle influence, and that her sympathy hung round every step of my progress. Once, too, when I ventured to speak her name to Melanius, though he answered not my inquiry, there was a smile, I thought, of promise upon his countenance, which love, far more alive than faith, was ready to interpret as it desired.

At length—it was on the sixth or seventh evening of my solitude, when I lay resting at the door of my cave, after the study of the day—I was startled by hearing my name called loudly from the opposite rocks; and looking up, saw, upon the cliff near the deserted grottos, Melanius and—oh! I *could not* doubt—my Alethe by his side!

Though I had never, since the first night of my return from the desert, ceased to flatter myself with the fancy that I was still living in her presence, the actual sight of her once more made me feel for what a long age we had been separated. She was clothed all in white, and, as she stood in the last remains of the sunshine, appeared to my too prophetic fancy like a parting spirit, whose last footsteps on earth that pure glory encircled.

With a delight only to be imagined, I saw them descend the rocks, and, placing themselves in the boat, proceed directly towards my cave. To disguise from Melanius the mutual delight with which

would, if received more generally, tend to soften the spirit of uncharitableness, so fatally prevalent among Christian sects—was maintained by that great light of the early Church, Origen, and has not wanted supporters among more modern Theologians. That Tillotson was inclined to the opinion appears from his sermon preached before the queen. Paley is supposed to have held the same amiable doctrine; and Newton (the author of the work on the Prophecies) is also among the supporters of it. For a full account of the arguments in favour of this opinion, derived both from reason and the express language of Scripture, see *Dr. Southwood Smith's* very interesting work, "On the Divine Government." See also *Magee on Atonement*, where the doctrine of the advocates of Universal Restoration is thus briefly, and, I believe, fairly explained:—"Beginning with the existence of an infinitely powerful, wise, and good Being, as the first and fundamental principle of rational religion, they pronounce the essence of this Being to be love, and from this infer, as a demonstrable consequence, that none of the creatures formed by such a Being will ever be made eternally miserable . . . . . Since God (they say) would act unjustly in inflicting eternal misery for temporary crimes, the sufferings of the wicked can be but remedial, and will terminate in a complete purification from moral disorder, and in their ultimate restoration to virtue and happiness."

[1] The Codex Cottonianus of the New Testament is written in silver letters on a purple ground. The Codex Cottonianus of the Septuagint version of the Old Testament is supposed to be the identical copy that belonged to Origen.

[2] Vide *Hamilton's Ægyptiaca.*

we again met was impossible;—nor did Alethe even attempt to make a secret of her joy. Though blushing at her own happiness, as little could her frank nature conceal it, as the clear waters of Ethiopia can hide their gold. Every look, every word, bespoke a fulness of affection, to which, doubtful as I was of our tenure of happiness, I knew not how to respond.

I was not long, however, left ignorant of the bright fate that awaited me; but, as we wandered or rested among the rocks, learned every thing that had been arranged since our parting. She had made the Hermit, I found, acquainted with all that had passed between us; had told him, without reserve, every incident of our voyage—the avowals, the demonstrations of affection on one side, and the deep sentiment that gratitude had awakened on the other. Too wise to regard affections so natural with severity—knowing that they were of heaven, and but made evil by man—the good Hermit had heard of our attachment with pleasure; and, fully satisfied as to the honour and purity of my views, by the fidelity with which I had delivered my trust into his hands, saw, in my affection for the young orphan, but a providential resource against that friendless solitude in which his death must soon leave her.

As, listening eagerly, I collected these particulars from their discourse, I could hardly trust my ears. It seemed a happiness too great to be true, to be real; nor can words convey any idea of the joy, the shame, the wonder with which I listened, while the holy man himself declared that he awaited but the moment, when he should find me worthy of becoming a member of the Christian Church, to give me also the hand of Alethe in that sacred union, which alone sanctifies love, and makes the faith, which it pledges, holy. It was but yesterday, he added, that his young charge, herself, after a preparation of prayer and repentance, such as even her pure spirit required, had been admitted, by the sacred ordinance of baptism, into the bosom of the faith;—and the white garment she wore, and the ring of gold on her finger [1], "were symbols," he added, "of that New Life into which she had been initiated."

I raised my eyes to hers as he spoke, but withdrew them again, dazzled and confused. Even her beauty, to my imagination, seemed to have undergone some brightening change; and the contrast between that open and happy countenance, and the unblest brow of the infidel that stood before her, abashed me into a sense of unworthiness, and almost checked my rapture.

To that night, however, I look back, as an epoch in my existence. It proved that sorrow is not the only awakener of devotion, but that joy may sometimes quicken the holy spark into life. Returning to my cave, with a heart full, even to oppression, of its happiness, I could find no other relief to my overcharged feelings, than that of throwing myself on my knees, and uttering, for the first time in my life, a heart-felt prayer, that if, indeed, there were a Being who watched over mankind, he would send down one ray of his truth into my darkened soul, and make it worthy of the blessings, both here and hereafter, proffered to it!

My days now rolled on in a perfect dream of happiness. Every hour of the morning was welcomed as bringing nearer and nearer the blest time of sunset, when the Hermit and Alethe never failed to visit my now charmed cave, where her smile left, at each parting, a light that lasted till her return. Then, our rambles, together, by starlight, over the mountain; our pauses, from time to time, to contemplate the wonders of the bright heaven above us; our repose by the cistern of the rock; and our silent listening, through hours that seemed minutes, to the holy eloquence of our teacher;—all, all was happiness of the most heartfelt kind, and such as even the doubts, the cold lingering doubts, that still hung, like a mist, around my heart, could neither cloud nor chill.

As soon as the moonlight nights returned, we used to venture into the desert; and those sands, which had lately looked so desolate, in my eyes, now assumed even a cheerful and smiling aspect. To the light, innocent heart of Alethe, every thing was a source of enjoyment. For her, even the desert had its jewels and flowers; and, sometimes, her delight was to search among the sands for those beautiful pebbles of jasper [2] that abound in them;—sometimes her eyes would sparkle with pleasure on finding, perhaps, a stunted marigold, or one of those bitter, scarlet flowers [3], that lend their dry mockery of ornament to the desert. In all these pursuits and pleasures the good Hermit took a share—mingling occasionally with them the reflections of a benevolent piety, that lent its own cheerful hue to all the works of creation, and

[1] See, for the custom among the early Christians of wearing white for a few days after baptism, *Ambros. de Myst.*—With respect to the ring, the Bishop of Lincoln says, in his work on Tertullian, "The natural inference from these words (*Tertull. de Pudicitiâ*) appears to be, that a ring used to be given in baptism; but I have found no other trace of such a custom."

[2] Vide *Clarke*.

[3] "Les *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* et *Zygophyllum coccineum*, plantes grasses des déserts, rejetées, à cause de leur âcreté, par les chameaux, les chèvres, et les gazelles."—*M. Delile upon the Plants of Egypt.*

saw the consoling truth, "God is Love," written legibly every where.

Such was, for a few weeks, my blissful life. Oh, mornings of hope! oh, nights of happiness! with what melancholy pleasure do I retrace your flight, and how reluctantly pass to the sad events that followed!

During this time, in compliance with the wishes of Melanius, who seemed unwilling that I should become wholly estranged from the world, I used occasionally to pay a visit to the neighbouring city, Antinoë[1], which, being the capital of the Thebaïd, is the centre of all the luxury of Upper Egypt. But here, so changed was my every feeling by the all-absorbing passion which now possessed me, that I sauntered along, wholly uninterested by either the scenes or the people that surrounded me, and, sighing for that rocky solitude where my Alethe breathed, felt *this* to be the wilderness, and *that* the world.

Even the thoughts of my own native Athens, that at every step were called up, by the light Grecian architecture of this imperial city, did not awaken one single regret in my heart—one wish to exchange even an hour of my desert for the best luxuries and honours that awaited me in the Garden. I saw the arches of triumph;—I walked under the superb portico, which encircles the whole city with its marble shade;—I stood in the Circus of the Sun, by whose rose-coloured pillars the mysterious movements of the Nile are measured;—on all these proud monuments of glory and art, as well as on the gay multitude that enlivened them, I looked with an unheeding eye. If they awakened in me any thought, it was the mournful idea, that, one day, like Thebes and Heliopolis, this pageant would pass away, leaving nothing behind but a few mouldering ruins—like sea-shells found where the ocean has been—to tell that the great tide of Life was once there!

But, though indifferent thus to all that had formerly attracted me, there were subjects, once alien to my heart, on which it was now most tremblingly alive; and some rumours which had reached me, in one of my visits to the city, of an expected change in the policy of the Emperor towards the Christians, filled my mind with apprehensions as new as they were dreadful to me.

The toleration and even favour which the Christians enjoyed, during the first four years of the reign of Valerian, had removed from them all fear of a renewal of those horrors, which they had experienced under the rule of his predecessor, Decius. Of late, however, some less friendly dispositions had manifested themselves. The bigots of the court, taking alarm at the rapid spread of the new faith, had succeeded in filling the mind of the monarch with that religious jealousy, which is the ever-ready parent of cruelty and injustice. Among these counsellors of evil was Macrianus, the Prætorian Prefect, who was, by birth, an Egyptian, and had long made himself notorious—so akin is superstition to intolerance—by his addiction to the dark practices of demon-worship and magic.

From this minister, who was now high in the favour of Valerian, the new measures of severity against the Christians were expected to emanate. All tongues, in all quarters, were busy with the news. In the streets, in the public gardens, on the steps of the temples, I saw, every where, groups of inquirers collected, and heard the name of Macrianus upon every tongue. It was dreadful, too, to observe, in the countenances of those who spoke, the variety of feeling with which the rumour was discussed, according as they feared or desired its truth—according as they were likely to be among the torturers or the victims.

Alarmed, though still ignorant of the whole extent of the danger, I hurried back to the ravine, and, going at once to the grotto of Melanius, detailed to him every particular of the intelligence I had collected. He listened to me with a composure, which I mistook, alas! for confidence in his own security; and, naming the hour for our evening walk, retired into his grotto.

At the accustomed time, accompanied by Alethe, he came to my cave. It was evident that he had not communicated to her the intelligence which I had brought, for never hath brow worn such happiness as that which now played around hers:—it was, alas! *not* of this earth. Melanius, himself, though composed, was thoughtful; and the solemnity, almost approaching to melancholy, with which he placed the hand of Alethe in mine—in the performance, too, of a ceremony that *ought* to have filled my heart with joy—saddened and alarmed me. This ceremony was our betrothment, the act of plighting our faith to each other, which we now solemnised on the rock before the door of my cave, in the face of that calm, sunset heaven, whose one star stood as our witness. After a blessing from the Hermit upon our spousal pledge, I placed the ring—the earnest of our future union—on her finger; and, in the blush, with which she surrendered to me her whole heart at that instant, forgot every thing but my happiness, and felt secure even against fate!

We took our accustomed walk, that evening, over the rocks and on the desert. So bright was the

[1] Vide *Savary* and *Quatremère*.

moon — more like the daylight, indeed, of other climes — that we could plainly see the tracks of the wild antelopes in the sand; and it was not without a slight tremble of feeling in his voice, as if some melancholy analogy occurred to him as he spoke, that the good Hermit said, "I have observed, in the course of my walks[1], that wherever the track of that gentle animal appears, there is, almost always, found the foot-print of a beast of prey near it." He regained, however, his usual cheerfulness before we parted, and fixed the following evening for an excursion, on the other side of the ravine, to a point looking, he said, "towards that northern region of the desert, where the hosts of the Lord encamped in their departure out of bondage."

Though, when Alethe was present, all my fears even for herself were forgotten in that perpetual element of happiness, which encircled her like the air that she breathed, no sooner was I alone, than vague terrors and bodings crowded upon me. In vain did I endeavour to reason away my fears, by dwelling only on the most cheering circumstances — on the reverence with which Melanius was regarded, even by the Pagans, and the inviolate security with which he had lived through the most perilous periods, not only safe himself, but affording sanctuary in the depths of his grottos to others. Though somewhat calmed by these considerations, yet, when at length I sunk off to sleep, dark, horrible dreams took possession of my mind. Scenes of death and of torment passed confusedly before me · and, when I awoke, it was with the fearful impression that all these horrors were real.

CHAPTER XIX.

At length, the day dawned — that dreadful day! Impatient to be relieved from my suspense, I threw myself into my boat — the same in which we had performed our happy voyage — and, as fast as oars could speed me, hurried away to the city. I found the suburbs silent and solitary, but, as I approached the Forum, loud yells, like those of barbarians in combat, struck on my ear, and, when I entered it — great God, what a spectacle presented itself! The imperial edict against the Christians had arrived during the night, and already the wild fury of bigotry was let loose.

Under a canopy, in the middle of the Forum, was the tribunal of the Governor. Two statues — one of Apollo, the other of Osiris — stood at the bottom of the steps that led up to his judgment-seat. Before these idols were shrines, to which the devoted Christians were dragged from all quarters by the soldiers and mob, and there compelled to recant, by throwing incense into the flame, or, on their refusal, hurried away to torture and death. It was an appalling scene; — the consternation, the cries of some of the victims — the pale, silent resolution of others; — the fierce shouts of laughter that broke from the multitude, when the dropping of the frankincense on the altar proclaimed some denier of Christ[2]; and the fiend-like triumph with which the courageous Confessors, who avowed their faith, were led away to the flames; — never could I have conceived such an assemblage of horrors!

Though I gazed but for a few minutes, in those minutes I felt and fancied enough for years. Already did the form of Alethe appear to flit before me through that tumult; — I heard them shout her name; — her shriek fell on my ear; and the very thought so palsied me with terror, that I stood fixed and statue-like on the spot.

Recollecting, however, the fearful preciousness of every moment, and that — perhaps, at this very instant — some emissaries of blood might be on their way to the Grottos, I rushed wildly out of the Forum, and made my way to the quay.

The streets were now crowded; but I ran headlong through the multitude, and was already under the portico leading down to the river — already saw the boat that was to bear me to Alethe — when a Centurion stood sternly in my path, and I was surrounded and arrested by soldiers! It was in vain that I implored, that I struggled with them as for life, assuring them that I was a stranger — that I was an Athenian — that I was — *not* a Christian. The precipitation of my flight was sufficient evidence against me, and unrelentingly, and by force, they bore me away to the quarters of their Chief.

It was enough to drive me at once to madness! Two hours, two frightful hours, was I kept waiting the arrival of the Tribune of their Legion[3] — my brain burning with a thousand fears and imagin-

[1] "Je remarquai, avec une réflexion triste, qu'un animal de proie accompagne presque toujours les pas de ce joli et frêle individu."

[2] "Those Christians who sacrificed to idols to save themselves were called by various names, *Thurificati, Sacrificati, Mittentes, Negatores*," &c. Baronius mentions a bishop of this period (253), Marcellinus, who, yielding to the threats of the Gentiles, threw incense upon the altar.—Vide *Arnob. contra Gent.* lib. vii.

[3] A rank, similar to that of Colonel.

ations, which every passing minute made but more likely to be realised. All I could collect, too, from the conversations of those around me, but added to the agonising apprehensions with which I was racked. Troops, it was said, had been sent in all directions through the neighbourhood, to bring in the rebellious Christians, and make them bow before the Gods of the Empire. With horror, too, I heard of Orcus — Orcus, the High Priest of Memphis — as one of the principal instigators of this sanguinary edict, and as here present in Antinoë, animating and directing its execution.

In this state of torture I remained till the arrival of the Tribune. Absorbed in my own thoughts, I had not perceived his entrance; — till, hearing a voice, in a tone of friendly surprise, exclaim, "Alciphron!" I looked up, and in this legionary Chief recognised a young Roman of rank, who had held a military command, the year before, at Athens, and was one of the most distinguished visiters of the Garden. It was no time, however, for courtesies — he was proceeding with all cordiality to greet me, but, having heard him order my instant release, I could wait for no more. Acknowledging his kindness but by a grasp of the hand, I flew off, like one frantic, through the streets, and, in a few minutes, was on the river.

My sole hope had been to reach the Grottos before any of the detached parties should arrive, and, by a timely flight across the desert, rescue, at least, Alethe from their fury. The ill-fated delay that had occurred rendered this hope almost desperate; but the tranquillity I found every where as I proceeded down the river, and my fond confidence in the sacredness of the Hermit's retreat, kept my heart from sinking altogether under its terrors.

Between the current and my oars, the boat flew, with the speed of wind, along the waters, and I was already near the rocks of the ravine, when I saw, turning out of the canal into the river, a barge crowded with people, and glittering with arms! How did I ever survive the shock of that sight? The oars dropped, as if struck out of my hands, into the water, and I sat, helplessly gazing, as that terrific vision approached. In a few minutes, the current brought us together; — and I saw, on the deck of the barge, Alethe herself and the Hermit surrounded by soldiers!

We were already passing each other, when, with a desperate effort, I sprang from my boat and lighted upon the edge of their vessel. I knew not what I did, for despair was my only prompter. Snatching at the sword of one of the soldiers, as I stood tottering on the edge, I had succeeded in wresting it out of his hands, when, at the same moment, I received a thrust of a lanee from one of his comrades, and fell backward into the river. I can just remember rising again and making a grasp at the side of the vessel; — but the shock, and the faintness from my wound, deprived me of all consciousness, and a shriek from Alethe, as I sank, is all I can recollect of what followed.

Would I had then died! — Yet, no, Almighty Being — I should have died in darkness, and I have lived to know Thee!

On returning to my senses, I found myself reclined on a couch, in a splendid apartment, the whole appearance of which being Grecian, I, for a moment, forgot all that had passed, and imagined myself in my own home at Athens. But too soon the whole dreadful certainty flashed upon me; and, starting wildly — disabled as I was — from my couch, I called loudly, and with the shriek of a maniac, upon Alethe.

I was in the house, I then found, of my friend and disciple, the young Tribune, who had made the Governor acquainted with my name and condition, and had received me under his roof, when brought, bleeding and insensible, to Antinoë. From him I now learned at once — for I could not wait for details — the sum of all that had happened in that dreadful interval. Melanius was no more — Alethe still alive, but in prison!

"Take me to her" — I had but time to say — "take me to her instantly, and let me die by her side" — when, nature again failing under such shocks, I relapsed into insensibility. In this state I continued for near an hour, and, on recovering, found the Tribune by my side. The horrors, he said, of the Forum were, for that day, over, — but what the morrow might bring, he shuddered to contemplate. His nature, it was plain, revolted from the inhuman duties in which he was engaged. Touched by the agonies he saw me suffer, he, in some degree, relieved them, by promising that I should, at nightfall, be conveyed to the prison, and, if possible, through his influence, gain access to Alethe. She might yet, he added, be saved, could I succeed in persuading her to comply with the terms of the edict, and make sacrifice to the Gods. — "Otherwise," said he, "there is no hope; — the vindictive Orcus, who has resisted even this short respite of mercy, will, to-morrow, inexorably demand his prey."

He then related to me, at my own request — though every word was torture — all the harrowing details of the proceeding before the Tribunal. "I have seen courage," said he, "in its noblest forms, in the field; but the calm intrepidity with which that aged hermit endured torments — which it was hardly less torment to witness — surpassed all that I could have conceived of human fortitude!"

My poor Alethe, too — in describing to me her conduct, the brave man wept like a child. Overwhelmed, he said, at first by her apprehensions for my safety, she had given way to a full burst of womanly weakness. But no sooner was she brought before the Tribunal, and the declaration of her faith was demanded of her, than a spirit almost supernatural seemed to animate her whole form. "She raised her eyes," said he, "calmly, but with fervour, to heaven, while a blush was the only sign of mortal feeling on her features: — and the clear, sweet, and untrembling voice, with which she pronounced her own doom, in the words, 'I am a Christian!'[1] sent a thrill of admiration and pity throughout the multitude. Her youth, her loveliness, affected all hearts, and a cry of 'Save the young maiden!' was heard in all directions."

The implacable Orcus, however, would not hear of mercy. Resenting, as it appeared, with all his deadliest rancour, not only her own escape from his toils, but the aid with which she had, so fatally to his views, assisted mine, he demanded loudly and in the name of the insulted sanctuary of Isis, her instant death. It was but by the firm intervention of the Governor, who shared the general sympathy in her fate, that the delay of another day was granted to give a chance to the young maiden of yet recalling her confession, and thus affording some pretext for saving her.

Even in yielding, with evident reluctance, to this respite, the inhuman Priest would yet accompany it with some mark of his vengeance. Whether for the pleasure (observed the Tribune) of mingling mockery with his cruelty, or as a warning to her of the doom she must ultimately expect, he gave orders that there should be tied round her brow one of those chaplets of coral[2], with which it is the custom of young Christian maidens to array themselves on the day of their martyrdom; — "and, thus fearfully adorned," said he, "she was led away, amidst the gaze of the pitying multitude, to prison."

With these harrowing details the short interval till nightfall — every minute of which seemed an age — was occupied. As soon as it grew dark, I was placed upon a litter — my wound, though not dangerous, requiring such a conveyance — and, under the guidance of my friend, I was conducted to the prison. Through his interest with the guard, we were without difficulty admitted, and I was borne into the chamber where the maiden lay immured. Even the veteran guardian of the place seemed touched with compassion for his prisoner, and supposing her to be asleep, had the litter placed gently near her.

She was half reclining, with her face hid beneath her hands, upon a couch — at the foot of which stood an idol, over whose hideous features a lamp of naphtha, that hung from the ceiling, shed a wild and ghastly glare. On a table before the image was a censer, with a small vessel of incense beside it — one grain of which, thrown voluntarily into the flame, would, even now, save that precious life. So strange, so fearful was the whole scene, that I almost doubted its reality. Alethe! my own, happy Alethe! *can* it, I thought, be thou that I look upon?

She now slowly, and with difficulty, raised her head from the couch, on observing which, the kind Tribune withdrew, and we were left alone. There was a paleness, as of death, over her features; and those eyes which, when last I saw them, were but too bright, too happy for this world, looked dim and sunken. In raising herself up, she put her hand, as if from pain, to her forehead, whose marble hue but appeared more death-like from those red bands that lay so awfully across it.

After wandering for a minute vaguely, her eyes at length rested upon me — and, with a shriek, half terror, half joy, she sprung from the couch, and sunk upon her knees by my side. She had believed me dead; and, even now, scarcely trusted her senses. "My husband! my love!" she exclaimed; "oh, if thou comest to call me from this world, behold I am ready!" In saying thus, she pointed wildly to that ominous wreath, and then dropped her head down upon my knee, as if an arrow had pierced it.

"Alethe!" I cried — terrified to the very soul by that mysterious pang — and, as if the sound of my voice had re-animated her, she looked up, with a faint smile, in my face. Her thoughts, which had evidently been wandering, became collected; and in her joy at my safety, her sorrow at my suffering, she forgot entirely the fate that impended over herself. Love, innocent love, alone occupied all her thoughts; and the warmth, the affection, the devotedness, with which she spoke — oh how, at any other moment, I would have blessed, have lingered upon every word!

[1] The merit of the confession "Christianus sum," or "Christiana sum," was considerably enhanced by the clearness and distinctness with which it was pronounced. *Eusebius* mentions the martyr Vetius as making it λαμπροτατῃ φωνῃ.

[2] Une "de ces couronnes de grain de corail, dont les vierges martyres ornoient leurs cheveux en allant à la mort."—*Les Martyrs.*

But the time flew fast—that dreadful morrow was approaching. Already I saw her writhing in the hands of the torturer—the flames, the racks, the wheels, were before my eyes! Half frantic with the fear that her resolution was fixed, I flung myself from the litter in an agony of weeping, and supplicated her, by the love she bore me, by the happiness that awaited us, by her own merciful God, who was too good to require such a sacrifice—by all that the most passionate anxiety could dictate, I implored that she would avert from us the doom that was coming, and—but for once—comply with the vain ceremony demanded of her.

Shrinking from me, as I spoke—but with a look more of sorrow than reproach—"What, thou, too!" she said mournfully—"thou, into whose inmost spirit I had fondly hoped the same light had entered as into my own! No, never be thou leagued with them who would tempt me to 'make shipwreck of my faith!' Thou, who couldst alone bind me to life, use not, I entreat thee, thy power; but let me die, as He I serve hath commanded—die for the Truth. Remember the holy lessons we heard together on those nights, those happy nights, when both the present and future smiled upon us—when even the gift of eternal life came more welcome to my soul, from the glad conviction that thou wert to be a sharer in its blessings;—shall I forfeit now that divine privilege? shall I deny the true God, whom we then learned to love?

"No, my own betrothed," she continued—pointing to the two rings on her finger—"behold these pledges—they are both sacred. I should have been as true to thee as I am now to heaven,—nor in that life to which I am hastening shall our love be forgotten. Should the baptism of fire, through which I shall pass to-morrow, make me worthy to be heard before the throne of Grace, I will intercede for thy soul—I will pray that it may yet share with mine that 'inheritance, immortal and undefiled,' which Mercy offers, and that thou—and my dear mother—and I——"

She here dropped her voice; the momentary animation, with which devotion and affection had inspired her, vanished;—and there came a darkness over all her features, a livid darkness—like the approach of death—that made me shudder through every limb. Seizing my hand convulsively, and looking at me with a fearful eagerness, as if anxious to hear some consoling assurance from my own lips—"Believe me," she continued, "not all the torments they are preparing for me—not even this deep, burning pain in my brow, to which they will hardly find an equal—could be half so dreadful to me as the thought that I leave thee, without——"

Here her voice again failed; her head sunk upon my arm, and—merciful God, let me forget what I then felt—I saw that she was dying! Whether I uttered any cry, I know not;—but the Tribune came rushing into the chamber, and, looking on the maiden, said, with a face full of horror, "It is but too true!"

He then told me in a low voice, what he had just learned from the guardian of the prison, that the band round the young Christian's brow[1] was—oh horrible!—a compound of the most deadly poison—the hellish invention of Orcus, to satiate his vengeance, and make the fate of his poor victim secure. My first movement was to untie that fatal wreath—but it would not come away—it would not come away!

Roused by the pain, she again looked in my face; but, unable to speak, took hastily from her bosom the small silver cross which she had brought with her from my cave. Having pressed it to her own lips, she held it anxiously to mine, and, seeing me kiss the holy symbol with fervour, looked happy, and smiled. The agony of death seemed to have passed away;—there came suddenly over her features a heavenly light, some share of which I felt descending into my own soul, and, in a few minutes more, she expired in my arms.

Here ends the Manuscript; but, on the outer cover is found, in the handwriting of a much later period, the following Notice, extracted, as it appears, from some Egyptian martyrology:—

"ALCIPHRON—an Epicurean philosopher, converted to Christianity, A.D. 257, by a young Egyptian maiden, who suffered martyrdom in that year. Immediately upon her death he betook himself to the desert, and lived a life, it is said, of much

[1] We find poisonous crowns mentioned by *Pliny*, under the designation of "coronæ ferales." *Paschalius*, too, gives the following account of these "deadly garlands," as he calls them:—"Sed mirum est tam salutare inventum humanam nequitiam reperisse, quomodo ad nefarios usus traducent. Nempe, repertæ sunt nefandæ coronæ harum, quas dixi, tam salubrium per nomen quidem et speciem imitatrices, at re et effectu ferales, atque adeo capitis, cui imponuntur, interfectrices."—*De Coronis*.

holiness and penitence. During the persecution under Diocletian, his sufferings for the faith were most exemplary; and being at length, at an advanced age, condemned to hard labour, for refusing to comply with an Imperial edict, he died at the Brass Mines of Palestine, A. D. 297.—

"As Alciphron held the opinions maintained since by Arius, his memory has not been spared by Athanasian writers, who, among other charges, accuse him of having been addicted to the superstitions of Egypt. For this calumny, however, there appears to be no better foundation than a circumstance, recorded by one of his brother monks, that there was found, after his death, a small metal mirror, like those used in the ceremonies of Isis, suspended around his neck."

ALCIPHRON:

A FRAGMENT.

LETTER I.

FROM ALCIPHRON AT ALEXANDRIA TO CLEON AT ATHENS.

WELL may you wonder at my flight
From those fair Gardens, in whose bowers
Lingers whate'er of wise and bright,
Of Beauty's smile or Wisdom's light,
Is left to grace this world of ours.
Well may my comrades, as they roam,
On such sweet eves as this, inquire
Why I have left that happy home
Where all is found that all desire,
And Time hath wings that never tire;
Where bliss, in all the countless shapes,
That Fancy's self to bliss hath given,
Comes clustering round, like road-side grapes
That woo the traveller's lip, at even;
Where Wisdom flings not joy away—
As Pallas in the stream, they say,
Once flung her flute—but smiling owns
That woman's lip can send forth tones
Worth all the music of those spheres
So many dream of, but none hears;
Where Virtue's self puts on so well
Her sister Pleasure's smile, that, loth
From either nymph apart to dwell,
We finish by embracing both.

Yes, such the place of bliss, I own,
From all whose charms I just have flown;
And even while thus to thee I write,
And by the Nile's dark flood recline,
Fondly, in thought, I wing my flight
Back to those groves and gardens bright,
And often think, by this sweet light,
How lovelily they all must shine;
Can see that graceful temple throw
Down the green slope its lengthen'd shade,
While, on the marble steps below,
There sits some fair Athenian maid,
Over some favourite volume bending;
And, by her side, a youthful sage
Holds back the ringlets that, descending,
Would else o'ershadow all the page.
But hence such thoughts!—nor let me grieve
O'er scenes of joy that I but leave,
As the bird quits awhile its nest
To come again with livelier zest.

And now to tell thee—what I fear
Thou'lt gravely smile at—*why* I'm here.
Though through my life's short, sunny dream,
I've floated without pain or care,
Like a light leaf, down pleasure's stream,
Caught in each sparkling eddy there;
Though never Mirth awaked a strain
That my heart echoed not again;
Yet have I felt, when even most gay,
Sad thoughts—I knew not whence or why—
Suddenly o'er my spirit fly,
Like clouds, that, ere we've time to say
"How bright the sky is!" shade the sky.
Sometimes so vague, so undefin'd,
Were these strange dark'nings of my mind—
While nought but joy around me beam'd—
So causelessly they've come and flown,

That not of life or earth they seem'd,
  But shadows from some world unknown.
More oft, however, 'twas the thought
  How soon that scene, with all its play
  Of life and gladness, must decay—
Those lips I prest, the hands I caught—
Myself—the crowd that mirth had brought
  Around me—swept like weeds away!

This thought it was that came to shed
  O'er rapture's hour its worst alloys;
And, close as shade with sunshine, wed
  Its sadness with my happiest joys.
Oh, but for this disheart'ning voice,
  Stealing amid our mirth to say
That all, in which we most rejoice,
  Ere night may be the earth-worm's prey;
But for this bitter—only this—
Full as the world is brimm'd with bliss,
And capable as feels my soul
Of draining to its dregs the whole,
I should turn earth to heav'n, and be,
If bliss made Gods, a Deity!

Thou know'st that night—the very last
That 'mong my Garden friends I pass'd—
When the School held its feast of mirth
To celebrate our founder's birth,
And all that He in dreams but saw
  When he set Pleasure on the throne
Of this bright world, and wrote her law
  In human hearts, was felt and known—
Not in unreal dreams, but true
Substantial joy as pulse e'er knew—
By hearts and bosoms, that each felt
Itself the realm where Pleasure dwelt.

That night, when all our mirth was o'er,
  The minstrels silent, and the feet
Of the young maidens heard *no more*—
  So stilly was the time, so sweet,
And such a calm came o'er that scene,
Where life and revel late had been—
Lone as the quiet of some bay,
From which the sea hath ebb'd away—
That still I linger'd, lost in thought,
  Gazing upon the stars of night,
Sad and intent, as if I sought
  Some mournful secret in their light;
And ask'd them, 'mid that silence, why
Man, glorious man, alone must die,
While they, less wonderful than he,
Shine on through all eternity.

That night—thou haply may'st forget
  Its loveliness—but 'twas a night
To make earth's meanest slave regret
  Leaving a world so soft and bright.
On one side, in the dark blue sky,
Lonely and radiant, was the eye
Of Jove himself, while, on the other,
  'Mong stars that came out one by one,
The young moon—like the Roman mother
  Among her living jewels—shone.
"Oh that from yonder orbs," I thought,
  "Pure and eternal as they are,
"There could to earth some power be brought,
"Some charm, with their own essence fraught,
  "To make man deathless as a star;
"And open to his vast desires
  "A course, as boundless and sublime
"As that which waits those comet-fires,
  "That burn and roam throughout all time!"

While thoughts like these absorb'd my mind,
  That weariness which earthly bliss,
However sweet, still leaves behind,
  As if to show how earthly 'tis,
Came lulling o'er me, and I laid
  My limbs at that fair statue's base—
That miracle, which Art hath made
  Of all the choice of Nature's grace—
To which so oft I've knelt and sworn,
  That, could a living maid like her
Unto this wondering world be born,
  I would, myself, turn worshipper.

Sleep came then o'er me—and I seem'd
  To be transported far away
To a bleak desert plain, where gleam'd
  One single, melancholy ray,
Throughout that darkness dimly shed
  From a small taper in the hand
Of one, who, pale as are the dead,
  Before me took his spectral stand,
And said, while, awfully, a smile
  Came o'er the wanness of his cheek—
"Go, and beside the sacred Nile
  "You'll find the' Eternal Life you seek."

Soon as he spoke these words, the hue
Of death o'er all his features grew,
Like the pale morning, when o'er night
She gains the victory, full of light;
While the small torch he held became
A glory in his hand, whose flame
Brighten'd the desert suddenly,
  Even to the far horizon's line—
Along whose level I could see
  Gardens and groves, that seem'd to shine,
As if then o'er them freshly play'd
A vernal rainbow's rich cascade;

And music floated every where,
Circling, as 'twere itself the air,
And spirits, on whose wings the hue
Of heaven still linger'd, round me flew,
Till from all sides such splendours broke,
That, with the excess of light, I woke!

Such was my dream;—and, I confess,
Though none of all our creedless School
E'er conn'd, believ'd, or reverenc'd less
The fables of the priest-led fool,
Who tells us of a soul, a mind,
Separate and pure, within us shrin'd,
Which is to live—ah, hope too bright!—
For ever in yon fields of light;
Who fondly thinks the guardian eyes
Of Gods are on him—as if, blest
And blooming in their own blue skies,
The' eternal Gods were not too wise
To let weak man disturb their rest!—
Though thinking of such creeds as thou
And all our Garden sages think,
Yet is there something, I allow,
In dreams like this—a sort of link
With worlds unseen, which, from the hour
I first could lisp my thoughts till now,
Hath master'd me with spell-like power.

And who can tell, as we're combin'd
Of various atoms—some refin'd,
Like those that scintillate and play
In the fix'd stars—some, gross as they
That frown in clouds or sleep in clay—
Who can be sure, but 'tis the best
And brightest atoms of our frame,
Those most akin to stellar flame,
That shine out thus, when we're at rest;—
Ev'n as the stars themselves, whose light
Comes out but in the silent night.
Or is it that there lurks, indeed,
Some truth in Man's prevailing creed,
And that our Guardians, from on high,
Come, in that pause from toil and sin,
To put the senses' curtain by,
And on the wakeful soul look in!

Vain thought!—but yet, howe'er it be,
Dreams, more than once, hath prov'd to me
Oracles, truer far than Oak,
Or Dove, or Tripod, ever spoke.
And 'twas the words—thou'lt hear and smile—
The words that phantom seem'd to speak—
"Go, and beside the sacred Nile
"You'll find the Eternal Life you seek—"
That, haunting me by night, by day,
At length, as with the unseen hand
Of Fate itself, urg'd me away
From Athens to this Holy Land;
Where, 'mong the secrets, still untaught,
The myst'ries that, as yet, nor sun
Nor eye hath reach'd—oh, blessed thought!—
May sleep this everlasting one.

Farewell—when to our Garden friends
Thou talk'st of the wild dream that sends
The gayest of their school thus far,
Wandering beneath Canopus' star,
Tell them that, wander where he will,
Or, howsoe'er they now condemn
His vague and vain pursuit, he still
Is worthy of the School and them;—
Still, all their own—nor e'er forgets,
Ev'n while his heart and soul pursue
Th' Eternal Light which never sets,
The many meteor joys that *do*,
But seeks them, hails them with delight,
Where'er they meet his longing sight.
And, if his life *must* wane away,
Like other lives, at least the day,
The hour it lasts shall, like a fire
With incense fed, in sweets expire.

LETTER II.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Memphis.

'Tis true, alas—the myst'ries and the lore
I came to study on this wondrous shore,
Are all forgotten in the new delights,
The strange, wild joys that fill my days and nights.
Instead of dark, dull oracles that speak
From subterranean temples, those *I* seek
Come from the breathing shrines where Beauty lives,
And Love, her priest, the soft responses gives.
Instead of honouring Isis in those rites
At Coptos held, I hail her, when she lights
Her first young crescent on the holy stream—
When wandering youths and maidens watch her beam,
And number o'er the nights she hath to run,
Ere she again embrace her bridegroom sun.
While o'er some mystic leaf, that dimly lends
A clue into past times, the student bends,
And by its glimmering guidance learns to tread
Back through the shadowy knowledge of the dead—
The only skill, alas, *I* yet can claim
Lies in deciphering some new lov'd-one's name—
Some gentle missive, hinting time and place,
In language, soft as Memphian reed can trace.

And where—oh where's the heart that could withstand
The' unnumber'd witcheries of this sun-born land,
Where first young Pleasure's banner was unfurl'd,
And Love hath temples ancient as the world!
Where mystery, like the veil by Beauty worn,
Hides but to win, and shades but to adorn;
Where that luxurious melancholy, born
Of passion and of genius, sheds a gloom
Making joy holy;—where the bower and tomb
Stand side by side, and Pleasure learns from Death
The instant value of each moment's breath.

Couldst thou but see how like a poet's dream
This lovely land now looks!—the glorious stream,
That late, between its banks, was seen to glide
'Mong shrines and marble cities, on each side
Glitt'ring like jewels strung along a chain,
Hath now sent forth its waters, and o'er plain
And valley, like a giant from his bed
Rising with outstretch'd limbs, hath grandly spread;
While far as sight can reach, beneath as clear
And blue a heaven as ever bless'd our sphere,
Gardens, and pillar'd streets, and porphyry domes,
And high-built temples, fit to be the homes
Of mighty Gods, and pyramids, whose hour
Outlasts all time, above the waters tower!

Then, too, the scenes of pomp and joy, that make
One theatre of this vast, peopled lake,
Where all that Love, Religion, Commerce gives
Of life and motion, ever moves and lives.
Here, up the steps of temples from the wave
Ascending, in procession slow and grave,
Priests in white garments go, with sacred wands
And silver cymbals gleaming in their hands;
While there, rich barks—fresh from those sunny tracts
Far off, beyond the sounding cataracts—
Glide, with their precious lading to the sea,
Plumes of bright birds, rhinoceros ivory,
Gems from the Isle of Meroe, and those grains
Of gold, wash'd down by Abyssinian rains.
Here, where the waters wind into a bay
Shadowy and cool, some pilgrims, on their way
To Saïs or Bubastus, among beds
Of lotus flowers, that close above their heads,
Push their light barks, and there, as in a bower,
Sing, talk, or sleep away the sultry hour;
Oft dipping in the Nile, when faint with heat,
That leaf, from which its waters drink most sweet.—
While haply, not far off, beneath a bank
Of blossoming acacias, many a prank
Is played in the cool current by a train
Of laughing nymphs, lovely as she[1], whose chain
Around two conquerors of the world was cast,
But, for a third too feeble, broke at last.

For oh, believe not them, who dare to brand,
As poor in charms, the women of this land.
Though darkened by that sun, whose spirit flows
Through every vein, and tinges as it goes,
'Tis but the' embrowning of the fruit that tells
How rich within the soul of ripeness dwells—
The hue their own dark sanctuaries wear,
Announcing heaven in half-caught glimpses there.
And never yet did tell-tale looks set free
The secret of young hearts more tenderly.
Such eyes!—long, shadowy, with that languid fall
Of the fring'd lids, which may be seen in all
Who live beneath the sun's too ardent rays—
Lending such looks as, on their marriage days,
Young maids cast down before a bridegroom's gaze!
Then for their grace—mark but the nymph-like shapes
Of the young village girls, when carrying grapes
From green Anthylla, or light urns of flowers—
Not our own Sculpture, in her happiest hours,
E'er imag'd forth, even at the touch of him[2]
Whose touch was life, more luxury of limb;
Then, canst thou wonder if, 'mid scenes like these,
I should forget all graver mysteries,
All lore but Love's, all secrets but that best
In heaven or earth, the art of being blest!
Yet are there times—though brief, I own, their stay,
Like Summer clouds that shine themselves away—
Moments of gloom, when even these pleasures pall
Upon my sadd'ning heart, and I recall
That Garden dream—that promise of a power—
Oh, were there such!—to lengthen out life's hour,
On, on, as through a vista, far away
Opening before us into endless day!
And chiefly o'er my spirit did this thought
Come on that evening—bright as ever brought
Light's golden farewell to the world—when first
The' eternal pyramids of Memphis burst
Awfully on my sight—standing sublime
'Twixt earth and heaven, the watch-towers of Time,
From whose lone summit, when his reign hath past
From earth for ever, he will look his last!

There hung a calm and solemn sunshine round
Those mighty monuments, a hushing sound
In the still air that circled them, which stole
Like music of past times into my soul.

[1] Cleopatra.

[2] Apelles.

I thought what myriads of the wise, and brave,
And beautiful, had sunk into the grave,
Since earth first saw these wonders — and I said,
" Are things eternal only for the Dead?
" Hath man no loftier hope than this, which dooms
" His only lasting trophies to be tombs?
" But *'tis* not so — earth, heaven, all nature shows
" He *may* become immortal — *may* unclose
" The wings within him wrapt, and proudly rise,
" Redeem'd from earth, a creature of the skies!

" And who can say, among the written spells
" From Hermes' hand, that, in these shrines and cells
" Have, from the Flood, lay hid, there may not be
" Some secret clue to immortality, —
" Some amulet, whose spell can keep life's fire
" Awake within us, never to expire!
" 'Tis known that, on the Emerald Table[1], hid
" For ages in yon loftiest pyramid,
" The Thrice-Great[2] did himself, engrave, of old,
" The chymic mystery that gives endless gold.
" And why may not this mightier secret dwell
" Within the same dark chambers? who can tell
" But that those kings, who, by the written skill
" Of the' Emerald Table, call'd forth gold at will,
" And quarries upon quarries heap'd and hurl'd,
" To build them domes that might outstand the world —
" Who knows but that the heavenlier art, which shares
" The life of Gods with man, was also theirs —
" That they themselves, triumphant o'er the power
" Of fate and death, are living at this hour;
" And these, the giant homes they still possess,
" Not tombs, but everlasting palaces,
" Within whose depths, hid from the world above,
" Even now they wander, with the few they love,
" Through subterranean gardens, by a light
" Unknown on earth, which hath nor dawn nor night!
" Else, why those deathless structures? why the grand
" And hidden halls, that undermine this land?
" Why else hath none of earth e'er dared to go
" Through the dark windings of that realm below,
" Nor aught from heav'n itself, except the God
" Of Silence, through those endless labyrinths trod?"
Thus did I dream — wild, wandering dreams, I own,
But such as haunt me ever, if alone,
Or in that pause, 'twixt joy and joy I be,
Like a ship hush'd between two waves at sea.

[1] See Notes on the Epicurean.
[2] The Hermes Trismegistus.

Then do these spirit whisperings, like the sound
Of the Dark Future, come appalling round;
Nor can I break the trance that holds me then,
Till high o'er Pleasure's surge I mount again!

Even now for new adventure, new delight,
My heart is on the wing; — this very night,
The Temple on that Island, half-way o'er
From Memphis' gardens to the eastern shore,
Sends up its annual rite[3] to her, whose beams
Bring the sweet time of night-flowers and dreams;
The nymph, who dips her urn in silent lakes,
And turns to silvery dew each drop it takes; —
Oh, not our Dian of the North, who chains
In vestal ice the current of young veins,
But she who haunts the gay Bubastian[4] grove,
And owns she sees, from her bright heaven above,
Nothing on earth to match that heaven but Love.
Think, then, what bliss will be abroad to-night! —
Besides those sparkling nymphs, who meet the sight
Day after day, familiar as the sun,
Coy buds of beauty, yet unbreath'd upon,
And all the hidden loveliness, that lies,
Shut up, as are the beams of sleeping eyes,
Within these twilight shrines — to-night shall be
Let loose, like birds, for this festivity!

And mark, 'tis nigh; already the sun bids
His evening farewell to the Pyramids,
As he hath done, age after age, till they
Alone on earth seem ancient as his ray;
While their great shadows, stretching from the light,
Look like the first colossal steps of Night,
Stretching across the valley, to invade
The distant hills of porphyry with their shade.
Around, as signals of the setting beam,
Gay, gilded flags on every house-top gleam:
While, hark! — from all the temples a rich swell
Of music to the Moon — farewell — farewell.

[3] The great Festival of the Moon.
[4] Bubastis, or Isis, was the Diana of the Egyptian mythology.

LETTER III.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Memphis.

THERE is some star — or it may be
That moon we saw so near last night —
Which comes athwart my destiny
For ever, with misleading light.

If for a moment, pure and wise
And calm I feel, there quick doth fall
A spark from some disturbing eyes,
That through my heart, soul, being flies,
And makes a wildfire of it all.
I've seen — oh, Cleon, that this earth
Should e'er have giv'n such beauty birth! —
That man — but, hold — hear all that pass'd
Since yester-night, from first to last.

The rising of the Moon, calm, slow,
And beautiful, as if she came
Fresh from the Elysian bowers below,
Was, with a loud and sweet acclaim,
Welcom'd from every breezy height,
Where crowds stood waiting for her light.
And well might they who view'd the scene
Then lit up all around them, say,
That never yet had Nature been
Caught sleeping in a lovelier ray,
Or rivall'd her own noon-tide face,
With purer show of moonlight grace.

Memphis — still grand, though not the same
Unrivall'd Memphis, that could seize
From ancient Thebes the crown of Fame,
And wear it bright through centuries —
Now, in the moonshine, that came down
Like a last smile upon that crown, —
Memphis, still grand, among her lakes,
Her pyramids and shrines of fire,
Rose, like a vision, that half breaks
On one who, dreaming still, awakes,
To music from some midnight choir:
While to the west — where gradual sinks
In the red sands, from Libya roll'd,
Some mighty column, or fair sphynx,
That stood in kingly courts, of old —
It seem'd as, 'mid the pomps that shone
Thus gaily round him, Time look'd on,
Waiting till all, now bright and blest,
Should sink beneath him like the rest.

No sooner had the setting sun
Proclaim'd the festal rite begun,
And, 'mid their idol's fullest beams,
The Egyptian world was all afloat,
Than I, who live upon these streams,
Like a young Nile-bird, turn'd my boat
To the fair island, on whose shores,
Through leafy palms and sycamores,
Already shone the moving lights
Of pilgrims hastening to the rites.
While, far around, like ruby sparks
Upon the water, lighted barks,
Of every form and kind — from those
That down Syene's cataract shoots,
To the grand, gilded barge, that rows
To tambour's beat and breath of flutes,
And wears at night, in words of flame,
On the rich prow, its master's name; —
All were alive, and made this sea
Of cities busy as a hill
Of summer ants, caught suddenly
In the overflowing of a rill.

Landed upon the isle, I soon
Through marble alleys and small groves
Of that mysterious palm she loves,
Reach'd the fair Temple of the Moon;
And there — as slowly through the last
Dim-lighted vestibule I pass'd —
Between the porphyry pillars, twin'd
With palm and ivy, I could see
A band of youthful maidens wind,
In measur'd walk, half dancingly,
Round a small shrine, on which was plac'd
That bird [1], whose plumes of black and white
Wear in their hue, by Nature trac'd,
A type of the moon's shadow'd light.

In drapery, like woven snow,
These nymphs were clad; and each, below
The rounded bosom, loosely wore
A dark blue zone, or bandelet,
With little silver stars all o'er,
As are the skies at midnight, set,
While in their tresses, braided through,
Sparkled that flower of Egypt's lakes,
The silvery lotus, in whose hue
As much delight the young Moon takes,
As doth the Day-God to behold
The lofty bean-flower's buds of gold.
And, as they gracefully went round
The worshipp'd bird, some to the beat
Of castanets, some to the sound
Of the shrill sistrum tim'd their feet;
While others, at each step they took,
A tinkling chain of silver shook.

They seem'd all fair — but there was one
On whom the light had not yet shone,
Or shone but partly — so downcast
She held her brow as slow she past.
And yet to me, there seem'd to dwell
A charm about that unseen face —
A something in the shade that fell
Over that brow's imagin'd grace,

[1] The Ibis.

Which won me more than all the best
Outshining beauties of the rest.
And *her* alone my eyes could see,
Enchain'd by this sweet mystery;
And her alone I watch'd, as round
She glided o'er that marble ground,
Stirring not more the' unconscious air
Than if a Spirit were moving there.
Till suddenly, wide open flew
The Temple's folding gates, and threw
A splendour from within, a flood
Of glory, where these maidens stood.
While, with that light—as if the same
Rich source gave birth to both—there came
A swell of harmony, as grand
As e'er was born of voice and hand,
Filling the gorgeous aisles around
With luxury of light and sound.

Then was it, by the flash that blaz'd
Full o'er her features—oh 'twas then,
As startingly her eyes she rais'd,
But quick let fall their lids again,
I saw—not Psyche's self, when first
Upon the threshold of the skies
She paus'd, while heaven's glory burst
Newly upon her downcast eyes,
Could look more beautiful, or blush
With holier shame, than did this maid,
Whom now I saw, in all that gush
Of splendour from the aisles, display'd,
Never—though well thou know'st how much
I've felt the sway of Beauty's star—
Never did her bright influence touch
My soul into its depths so far;
And had that vision linger'd there
One minute more, I should have flown,
Forgetful *who* I was and where,
And, at her feet in worship thrown,
Proffer'd my soul through life her own.

But, scarcely had that burst of light
And music broke on ear and sight,
Than up the aisle the bird took wing,
As if on heavenly mission sent,
While after him, with graceful spring,
Like some unearthly creatures, meant
To live in that mix'd element
Of light and song, the young maids went;
And she, who in my heart had thrown
A spark to burn for life, was flown.

In vain I tried to follow;—bands
Of reverend chanters fill'd the aisle:
Where'er I sought to pass, their wands
Motion'd me back, while many a file
Of sacred nymphs—but ah, not they
Whom my eyes look'd for—throng'd the way.
Perplex'd, impatient, 'mid this crowd
Of faces, lights—the o'erwhelming cloud
Of incense round me, and my blood
Full of its new-born fire—I stood,
Nor mov'd, nor breath'd, but when I caught
A glimpse of some blue, spangled zone,
Or wreath of lotus, which, I thought,
Like those she wore at distance shone.

But no, 'twas vain—hour after hour,
Till my heart's throbbing turn'd to pain,
And my strain'd eyesight lost its power,
I sought her thus, but all in vain.
At length, hot—wilder'd—in despair,
I rush'd into the cool night-air,
And, hurrying (though with many a look
Back to the busy Temple), took
My way along the moonlight shore,
And sprung into my boat once more.

There is a Lake, that to the north
Of Memphis stretches grandly forth,
Upon whose silent shore the Dead
Have a proud City of their own[1],
With shrines and pyramids o'erspread—
Where many an ancient kingly head
Slumbers, immortalis'd in stone;
And where, through marble grots beneath,
The lifeless, rang'd like sacred things,
Nor wanting aught of life but breath,
Lie in their painted coverings,
And on each new successive race,
That visit their dim haunts below,
Look with the same unwithering face,
They wore three thousand years ago.
There, Silence, thoughtful God, who loves
The neighbourhood of death, in groves
Of asphodel lies hid, and weaves
His hushing spell among the leaves—
Nor ever noise disturbs the air,
Save the low, humming, mournful sound
Of priests, within their shrines, at prayer
For the fresh Dead entomb'd around.

'Twas tow'rd this place of death—in mood
Made up of thoughts, half bright, half dark—
I now across the shining flood
Unconscious turn'd my light-wing'd bark.

[1] Necropolis, or the City of the Dead, to the south of Memphis.

The form of that young maid, in all
  Its beauty, was before me still;
And oft I thought, if thus to call
  Her image to my mind at will,
If but the memory of that one
Bright look of hers, for ever gone,
Was to my heart worth all the rest
Of woman-kind, beheld, possest—
What would it be, if wholly mine,
Within these arms, as in a shrine,
Hallow'd by Love, I saw her shine—
An idol, worshipp'd by the light
Of her own beauties, day and night—
If 'twas a blessing but to see
And lose again, what would *this* be?

In thoughts like these—but often crost
By darker threads—my mind was lost,
Till, near that City of the Dead,
Wak'd from my trance, I saw o'erhead—
As if by some enchanter bid
  Suddenly from the wave to rise—
Pyramid over pyramid
  Tower in succession to the skies;
While one, aspiring, as if soon
  'Twould touch the heavens, rose o'er all;
And, on its summit, the white moon
  Rested, as on a pedestal!

The silence of the lonely tombs
  And temples round, where nought was heard
But the high palm-tree's tufted plumes,
  Shaken, at times, by breeze or bird,
Form'd a deep contrast to the scene
Of revel, where I late had been;
To those gay sounds, that still came o'er,
Faintly, from many a distant shore,
And the' unnumber'd lights, that shone
Far o'er the flood, from Memphis on
To the Moon's Isle and Babylon.

My oars were lifted, and my boat
  Lay rock'd upon the rippling stream;
While my vague thoughts, alike afloat,
  Drifted through many an idle dream,
With all of which, wild and unfix'd
As was their aim, that vision mix'd,
That bright nymph of the Temple—now,
With the same innocence of brow
She wore within the lighted fane—
Now kindling, through each pulse and vein,
With passion of such deep-felt fire
As Gods might glory to inspire;—
And now—oh Darkness of the tomb,
  That must eclipse even light like hers!

Cold, dead, and blackening, 'mid the gloom
  Of those eternal sepulchres.

Scarce had I turn'd my eyes away
  From that dark death-place, at the thought,
When by the sound of dashing spray
  From a light oar my ear was caught,
While past me, through the moonlight, sail'd
  A little gilded bark that bore
Two female figures, closely veil'd
  And mantled, towards that funeral shore.
They landed—and the boat again
Put off across the watery plain.

Shall I confess—to *thee* I may—
  That never yet hath come the chance
Of a new music, a new ray
  From woman's voice, from woman's glance,
Which—let it find me how it might,
  In joy or grief—I did not bless,
And wander after, as a light
  Leading to undreamt happiness.
And chiefly now, when hopes so vain
Were stirring in my heart and brain,
When Fancy had allur'd my soul
  Into a chase, as vague and far
As would be his, who fix'd his goal
  In the horizon, or some star—
Any bewilderment, that brought
More near to earth my high-flown thought—
The faintest glimpse of joy, less pure,
Less high and heavenly, but more sure,
Came welcome—and was then to me
What the first flowery isle must be
To vagrant birds blown out to sea.

Quick to the shore I urg'd my bark,
  And, by the bursts of moonlight, shed
Between the lofty tombs, could mark
  Those figures, as with hasty tread
They glided on—till in the shade
  Of a small pyramid, which through
Some boughs of palm its peak display'd,
  They vanish'd instant from my view.

I hurried to the spot—no trace
Of life was in that lonely place;
And, had the creed I hold by taught
Of other worlds, I might have thought
Some mocking spirits had from thence
Come in this guise to cheat my sense.

At length, exploring darkly round
The Pyramid's smooth sides, I found
An iron portal—opening high
  'Twixt peak and base—and, with a prayer

To the bliss-loving Moon, whose eye
Alone beheld me, sprung in there.
Downward the narrow stairway led
Through many a duct obscure and dread,
A labyrinth for mystery made,
With wanderings onward, backward, round,
And gathering still, where'er it wound,
But deeper density of shade.

Scarce had I ask'd myself, "Can aught
"That man delights in sojourn here?"—
When, suddenly, far off, I caught
A glimpse of light, remote, but clear—
Whose welcome glimmer seem'd to pour
From some alcove or cell, that ended
The long, steep, marble corridor,
Through which I now, all hope, descended.
Never did Spartan to his bride
With warier foot at midnight glide.
It seem'd as echo's self were dead
In this dark place, so mute my tread.
Reaching, at length, that light, I saw—
Oh listen to the scene, now rais'd
Before my eyes—then guess the awe,
The still, rapt awe with which I gaz'd.
'Twas a small chapel, lin'd around
With the fair, spangling marble, found
In many a ruin'd shrine that stands
Half seen above the Libyan sands.
The walls were richly sculptur'd o'er,
And character'd with that dark lore,
Of times before the Flood, whose key
Was lost in the' "Universal Sea."—
While on the roof was pictur'd bright
The Theban beetle, as he shines,
When the Nile's mighty flow declines,
And forth the creature springs to light,
With life regenerate in his wings:—
Emblem of vain imaginings!
Of a new world, when this is gone,
In which the spirit still lives on!

Direct beneath this type, reclin'd
On a black granite altar, lay
A female form, in crystal shrin'd,
And looking fresh as if the ray
Of soul had fled but yesterday.
While in relief, of silv'ry hue,
Grav'd on the altar's front were seen
A branch of lotus, broken in two,
As that fair creature's life had been,
And a small bird that from its spray
Was winging, like her soul, away.

But brief the glimpse I now could spare,
To the wild, mystic wonders round;
For there was yet *one* wonder there,
That held me as by witch'ry bound.
The lamp, that through the chamber shed
Its vivid beam, was at the head
Of her who on that altar slept;
And near it stood, when first I came—
Bending her brow, as if she kept
Sad watch upon its silent flame—
A female form, as yet so plac'd
Between the lamp's strong glow and me,
That I but saw, in outline trac'd,
The shadow of her symmetry.
Yet did my heart—I scarce knew why—
Even at that shadow'd shape beat high.
Nor was it long, ere full in sight
The figure turn'd; and by the light
That touch'd her features, as she bent
Over the crystal monument,
I saw 'twas she—the same—the same—
That lately stood before me, bright'ning
The holy spot, where she but came
And went again, like summer lightning!

Upon the crystal, o'er the breast
Of her who took that silent rest,
There was a cross of silver lying—
Another type of that blest home,
Which hope, and pride, and fear of dying
Build for us in a world to come:—
This silver cross the maiden rais'd
To her pure lips:—then, having gaz'd
Some minutes on that tranquil face,
Sleeping in all death's mournful grace,
Upward she turn'd her brow serene,
As if, intent on heaven, those eyes
Saw then nor roof nor cloud between
Their own pure orbits and the skies;
And, though her lips no motion made,
And that fix'd look was all her speech,
I saw that the rapt spirit pray'd
Deeper within than words could reach.

Strange power of Innocence, to turn
To its own hue whate'er comes near,
And make even vagrant Passion burn
With purer warmth within its sphere!
She who, but one short hour before,
Had come, like sudden wild-fire, o'er
My heart and brain—whom gladly, even
From that bright Temple, in the face
Of those proud ministers of heaven,
I would have borne, in wild embrace,
And risk'd all punishment, divine
And human, but to make her mine;—
She, she was now before me, thrown
By fate itself into my arms—

There standing, beautiful, alone,
With nought to guard her, but her charms.
Yet did I, then—did even a breath
From my parch'd lips, too parch'd to move,
Disturb a scene where thus, beneath
Earth's silent covering, Youth and Death
Held converse through undying love?
No—smile and taunt me as thou wilt—
Though but to gaze thus was delight,
Yet seem'd it like a wrong, a guilt,
To win by stealth so pure a sight:
And rather than a look profane
Should then have met those thoughtful eyes,
Or voice or whisper broke the chain
That link'd her spirit with the skies,
I would have gladly, in that place,
From which I watch'd her heavenward face,
Let my heart break, without one beat
That could disturb a prayer so sweet.
Gently, as if on every tread,
My life, my more than life, depended,
Back through the corridor that led
To this blest scene I now ascended,
And with slow seeking, and some pain,
And many a winding tried in vain,
Emerg'd to upper air again.

The sun had freshly risen, and down
The marble hills of Araby,
Scatter'd, as from a conqueror's crown,
His beams into that living sea.
There seem'd a glory in his light,
Newly put on—as if for pride
Of the high homage paid this night
To his own Isis, his young bride,
Now fading feminine away
In her proud Lord's superior ray.

My mind's first impulse was to fly
At once from this entangling net—
New scenes to range, new loves to try,
Or, in mirth, wine, and luxury
Of every sense, that night forget.
But vain the effort—spell-bound still,
I linger'd, without power or will
To turn my eyes from that dark door,
Which now enclos'd her 'mong the dead;
Oft fancying, through the boughs, that o'er
The sunny pile their flickering shed,
'Twas her light form again I saw
Starting to earth—still pure and bright,
But wakening, as I hop'd, less awe,
Thus seen by morning's natural light,
Than in that strange, dim cell at night.

But no, alas—she ne'er return'd:
Nor yet—though still I watch—nor yet,
Though the red sun for hours hath burn'd,
And now, in his mid course, hath met
The peak of that eternal pile
He pauses still at noon to bless,
Standing beneath his downward smile,
Like a great Spirit, shadowless!—
Nor yet she comes—while here, alone,
Saunt'ring through this death-peopled place,
Where no heart beats except my own,
Or 'neath a palm-tree's shelter thrown,
By turns I watch, and rest, and trace
These lines, that are to waft to thee
My last night's wondrous history.

Dost thou remember, in that Isle
Of our own Sea, where thou and I
Linger'd so long, so happy a while,
'Till all the summer flowers went by—
How gay it was, when sunset brought
To the cool Well our favourite maids—
Some we had won, and some we sought—
To dance within the fragrant shades,
And, till the stars went down attune
Their Fountain Hymns[1] to the young moon?

That time, too—oh, 'tis like a dream—
When from Scamander's holy tide
I sprung as Genius of the Stream,
And bore away that blooming bride,
Who thither came, to yield her charms
(As Phrygian maids are wont, ere wed)
Into the cold Scamander's arms,
But met, and welcom'd mine, instead—
Wondering, as on my neck she fell,
How river-gods could love so well!
Who would have thought that he, who rov'd
Like the first bees of summer then,
Rifling each sweet, nor ever lov'd
But the free hearts, that lov'd again,
Readily as the reed replies
To the least breath that round it sighs—
Is the same dreamer who, last night,
Stood aw'd and breathless at the sight
Of one Egyptian girl; and now
Wanders among these tombs, with brow
Pale, watchful, sad, as though he just,
Himself, had risen from out their dust!

Yet so it is—and the same thirst
For something high and pure, above
This withering world, which, from the first,
Made me drink deep of woman's love—

[1] These songs of the Well, as they were called by the ancients, are still common in the Greek isles.

As the one joy, to heaven most near
Of all our hearts can meet with here—
Still burns me up, still keeps awake
A fever nought but death can slake.

Farewell; whatever may befall—
Or bright, or dark—thou'lt know it all.

LETTER IV

FROM ORCUS, HIGH PRIEST OF MEMPHIS, TO DECIUS, THE PRÆTORIAN PREFECT.

Rejoice, my friend, rejoice:—the youthful Chief
Of that light Sect which mocks at all belief,
And, gay and godless, makes the present hour
Its only heaven, is now within our power.
Smooth, impious school!—not all the weapons aim'd
At priestly creeds, since first a creed was fram'd,
E'er struck so deep as that sly dart they wield,
The Bacchant's pointed spear in laughing flowers conceal'd.
And oh, 'twere victory to this heart, as sweet
As any *thou* canst boast—even when the feet
Of thy proud war-steed wade through Christian blood,
To wrap this scoffer in Faith's blinding hood,
And bring him, tam'd and prostrate, to implore
The vilest gods even Egypt's saints adore.
What!—do these sages think, to *them* alone
The key of this world's happiness is known?
That none but they, who make such proud parade
Of Pleasure's smiling favours, win the maid,
Or that Religion keeps no secret place,
No niche, in her dark fanes, for Love to grace?
Fools!—did they know how keen the zest that's given
To earthly joy, when season'd well with heaven;
How Piety's grave mask improves the hue
Of Pleasure's laughing features, half seen through,
And how the Priest, set aptly within reach
Of two rich worlds, traffics for bliss with each,
Would they not, Decius—thou, whom the' ancient tie
Twixt Sword and Altar makes our best ally—
Would they not change their creed, their craft, for ours?
Leave the gross daylight joys that, in their bowers,
Languish with too much sun, like o'erblown flowers,
For the veil'd loves, the blisses undisplay'd
That slily lurk within the Temple's shade?
And, 'stead of haunting the trim Garden's school—
Where cold Philosophy usurps a rule,
Like the pale moon's, o'er passion's heaving tide,
Till Pleasure's self is chill'd by Wisdom's pride—
Be taught by *us*, quit shadows for the true,
Substantial joys we sager Priests pursue,
Who, far too wise to theorise on bliss,
Or Pleasure's substance for its shade to miss,
Preach *other* worlds, but live for only *this*:—
Thanks to the well-paid Mystery round us flung,
Which, like its type, the golden cloud that hung
O'er Jupiter's love-couch its shade benign,
Round human frailty wraps a veil divine

Still less should they presume, weak wits, that they
Alone despise the craft of us who pray;—
Still less their creedless vanity deceive
With the fond thought, that we who pray believe.
Believe!—Apis forbid—forbid it, all
Ye monster Gods, before whose shrines we fall—
Deities, fram'd in jest, as if to try
How far gross Man can vulgarise the sky;
How far the same low fancy that combines
Into a drove of brutes yon zodiac's signs,
And turns that Heaven itself into a place
Of sainted sin and deified disgrace,
Can bring Olympus even to shame more deep,
Stock it with things that earth itself holds cheap,
Fish, flesh, and fowl, the kitchen's sacred brood,
Which Egypt keeps for worship, not for food—
All, worthy idols of a Faith that sees
In dogs, cats, owls, and apes, divinities!

Believe!—oh, Decius, thou, who feel'st no care
For things divine, beyond the soldier's share,
Who takes on trust the faith for which he bleeds,
A good, fierce God to swear by, all he needs—
Little canst thou, whose creed around thee hangs
Loose as thy summer war-cloak, guess the pangs
Of loathing and self-scorn with which a heart,
Stubborn as mine is, acts the zealot's part—
The deep and dire disgust with which I wade
Through the foul juggling of this holy trade—
This mud profound of mystery, where the feet,
At every step, sink deeper in deceit.
Oh! many a time, when, 'mid the Temple's blaze,
O'er prostrate fools the sacred cist I raise,
Did I not keep still proudly in my mind
The power this priestcraft gives me o'er mankind—
A lever, of more might, in skilful hand,
To move this world, than Archimede e'er plann'd—
I should, in vengeance of the shame I feel
At my own mockery, crush the slaves that kneel
Besotted round; and—like that kindred breed
Of reverend, well-drest crocodiles they feed,

At fam'd Arsinoë[1]—make my keepers bless,
With their last throb, my sharp-fang'd Holiness.

Say, *is it to be borne*, that scoffers, vain
Of their own freedom from the altar's chain,
Should mock thus all that thou thy blood hast sold,
And I my truth, pride, freedom, to uphold?
It must not be:—think'st thou that Christian sect,
Whose followers, quick as broken waves, erect
Their crests anew and swell into a tide,
That threats to sweep away our shrines of pride—
Think'st thou, with all their wondrous spells, even they
Would triumph thus, had not the constant play
Of Wit's resistless archery clear'd their way?—
That mocking spirit, worst of all the foes,
Our solemn fraud, our mystic mummery knows,
Whose wounding flash thus ever 'mong the signs
Of a fast-falling creed, prelusive shines,
Threat'ning such change as do the awful freaks
Of summer lightning, ere the tempest breaks.

But, to my point—a youth of this vain school,
But one, whom Doubt itself hath fail'd to cool
Down to that freezing point where Priests despair
Of any spark from the' altar catching there—
Hath, some nights since—it was, methinks, the night
That follow'd the full Moon's great annual rite—
Through the dark, winding ducts, that downward stray
To these earth-hidden temples, track'd his way,
Just at that hour when, round the Shrine, and me,
The choir of blooming nymphs thou long'st to see,
Sing their last night-hymn in the Sanctuary.
The clangour of the marvellous Gate, that stands
At the Well's lowest depth—which none but hands
Of new, untaught adventurers, from above,
Who know not the safe path, e'er dare to move—
Gave signal that a foot profane was nigh:—
'Twas the Greek youth, who, by that morning's sky,
Had been observ'd, curiously wand'ring round
The mighty fanes of our sepulchral ground.

Instant, the' Initiate's Trials were prepar'd,—
The Fire, Air, Water; all that Orpheus dar'd,
That Plato, that the bright-hair'd Samian[2] pass'd,
With trembling hope, to come to—*what*, at last?
Go, ask the dupes of Priestcraft! question him
Who, 'mid terrific sounds and spectres dim,
Walks at Eleusis; ask of those, who brave
The dazzling miracles of Mithra's Cave,
With its seven starry gates; ask all who keep
Those terrible night-mysteries, where they weep
And howl sad dirges to the answering breeze,
O'er their dead Gods, their mortal Deities—
Amphibious, hybrid things, that died as men,
Drown'd, hang'd, empal'd, to rise, as gods, again;—
Ask *them*, what mighty secret lurks below
This seven-fold mystery—can they tell thee? No;
Gravely they keep that only secret, well
And fairly kept—that they have none to tell;
And, dup'd themselves, console their humbled pride
By duping thenceforth all mankind beside.

And such the' advance in fraud since Orpheus' time—
That earliest master of our craft sublime—
So many minor Mysteries, imps of fraud,
From the great Orphic Egg have wing'd abroad,
That, still to' uphold our Temple's ancient boast,
And seem most holy, we must cheat the most;
Work the best miracles, wrap nonsense round
In pomp and darkness, till it seems profound;
Play on the hopes, the terrors of mankind,
With changeful skill; and make the human mind
Like our own Sanctuary, where no ray,
But by the Priest's permission, wins its ray—
Where through the gloom as wave our wizard-rods,
Monsters, at will, are conjur'd into Gods;
While Reason, like a grave-fac'd mummy, stands,
With her arms swath'd in hieroglyphic bands.
But chiefly in that skill with which we use
Man's wildest passions for Religion's views,
Yoking them to her car like fiery steeds,
Lies the main art in which our craft succeeds.
And oh! be blest, ye men of yore, whose toil
Hath, for her use, scoop'd out from Egypt's soil
This hidden Paradise, this mine of fanes,
Gardens, and palaces, where Pleasure reigns
In a rich, sunless empire of her own,
With all earth's luxuries lighting up her throne;—
A realm for mystery made, which undermines
The Nile itself, and, 'neath the Twelve Great Shrines
That keep Initiation's holy rite,
Spreads its long labyrinths of unearthly light,
A light that knows no change—its brooks that run
Too deep for day, its gardens without sun,
Where soul and sense, by turns, are charm'd, surpris'd,
And all that bard or prophet e'er devis'd
For man's Elysium, priests have realis'd.

Here, at this moment—all his trials past,
And heart and nerve unshrinking to the last—
Our new Initiate roves—as yet left free
To wander through this realm of mystery;

[1] For the trinkets with which the sacred Crocodiles were ornamented, see the Epicurean, chap. x.

[2] Pythagoras.

Feeding on such illusions as prepare
The soul, like mist o'er waterfalls, to wear
All shapes and hues, at Fancy's varying will,
Through every shifting aspect, vapour still;—
Vague glimpses of the Future, vistas shown,
By scenic skill, into that world unknown,
Which saints and sinners claim alike their own;
And all those other witching, wildering arts,
Illusions, terrors, that make human hearts,
Ay, even the wisest and the hardiest, quail
To *any* goblin thron'd behind a veil.

Yes—such the spells shall haunt his eye, his ear,
Mix with his night-dreams, form his atmosphere;
Till, if our Sage be not tam'd down, at length,
His wit, his wisdom, shorn of all their strength,
Like Phrygian priests, in honour of the shrine—
If he become not absolutely mine,
Body and soul, and, like the tame decoy
Which wary hunters of wild doves employ,
Draw converts also, lure his brother wits
To the dark cage where his own spirit flits,
And give us, if not saints, good hypocrites—
If I effect not this, then be it said
The ancient spirit of our craft hath fled,
Gone with that serpent-god the Cross hath chas'd
To hiss its soul out in the Theban waste.

* * * * * *

INDEX.

A.

Abdalla, King of the Lesser Bucharia, 317. &c. *See* Lalla Rookh.
Abdallah, 154. His Gazel, 155.
Abdul Fazil, 397. *n.*
A beam of tranquillity smil'd in the west, 106.
A broken cake, with honey sweet. (Ode lxx. Anacreon), 44.
Ægean Sea, the, 256, 259.
Agnew, Sir Andrew, 533, 534. 590. *et passim.*
Ah! where are they who heard in former hours, 268.
Albermarle, Lord, anecdote of, 477.
Album, the, 75. 491.
Alciphron, Athenian philosopher, an initiate in Egyptian Mysteries, 646. His recognition by the Roman tribune, 665. His daring, 666. He witnesses the death of the Christian martyr Alethe, 667. Account of this Epicurean philosopher 667. 668.
Alciphron, a Fragment of 'The Epicurean,' as originally commenced in verse, 668—680. Epistle I. From Alciphron at Alexandria to Cleon at Athens, 668. II. From Alciphron to Cleon, 670. III. From Alchipron to Cleon, 672. IV. From Orcus, high priest of Memphis, to Decius, the Prætorian prefect, 678.
Alethe, Story of the Martyr, 642—647. *et seq.*
Alexander, Right Hon. H., 156.
Aliris, King, 317. 385. 398. His nuptials with Lalla Rookh, 398.
All that's bright must fade, 224.
Alla, name of God in Mahometan countries, 322. (*Vide* Lalla Rookh,) 466. 476. The throne of Alla, 469. 482.
Alone in crowds to wander on, 242.
Alps, Song of the, 316.
America, Poems relating to, Preface, 104, 105. Dedication to Francis Earl of Moira, Preface, 104. The poems, 105—131.
Ammianus speaking of Alexandria in Egypt, 611. *n.*
Amra tree, 394. *n.*
Amrita, the Immortal tree, 309.
Amystis, the, a single draught of wine, 18 *n.*
Anacreon, Odes of, 1.
*** *The Odes are given in this Index in the order of the initial letter of each Ode.*
Anacreon. Biographical and Critical Remarks, 3. Additional lyrics attributed to Anacreon, 45, 46. Panegyrics in the Anthologia on Anacreon, 46—48.
Anacreontics, modern, 54. 62. 64, 65. 163. 165.
And doth not a meeting like this make amends, 207.
And hast thou mark'd the pensive shade, 90.
And now with all thy pencil's truth (Ode xvii. Anacreon), 17.
Angels and archangels of the celestial hierarchy of the primæval Syrians, 465, 480.
Angels, the Fallen, 395. 471. 481.
Angerianus, Latin verses of, translated, 11. *n.*, 19. *n.*
Anglesea, Marquis of, lord-lieutenant, 518.
Animal Magnetism, 558.
Annual Pill, the, 524.
Antelope of Erac, 394. *See also* 664.
Anthology, the Greek: — Translations of some Epigrams of, 46. 48. Songs from the Greek, 310—313.
Antipater, epigram of, 48.
Antique, a Study from the, 117.
Antiquity, a Dream of, 114.
Apollo, the god of poetry, 236.
Apollo, the High-Priest of, to a virgin of Delphi, 80.
Apricots, the 'Seed of the Sun,' 394.
Arab, the tyrant, Al Hassan, (*vide* Lalla Rookh, the Story of The Fire-worshippers), 360. *et seq.*
Arab Maid, the, 361. 393. 395.
Arabia, 360, 361.
Arabian shepherd, his camel, 272. *n.*
Ararat, Mount, 361.
Archangels, 466. 471. 480.
Ariadne, dance so named, 273.
Ariel, 114. 487. 502.
Aristippus, to a Lamp given by Lais, 66.
Arm'd with hyacinthine rod (Ode xxxi. Anacreon), 25.
Around the tomb, O bard divine! (Anthologia), 46.
Arranmore! loved Arranmore! 213.
Array thee, love, 254.
Art, 271.
As by his Lemnian forge's flame (Ode xxviii. Anacreon), 23.
As by the shore, at break of day, 267.
As down in the sunless retreats, 245.
Ask not if still I love, 313.
As late I sought the spangled bowers (Ode vi. Anacreon), 10.
As o'er the lake, in evening's glow, 608.
As o'er her loom the Lesbian maid, 264.
As once a Grecian maiden wove, 271.
Aspasia, 88.
Aspen-tree, the, 387.
As slow our ship, 197.
As vanquish'd Erin wept, 208.
Atalantis, Island of, 613.
Athens, and the Sectaries of the Garden, 606, 607. Alciphron, 647. 668—680. Pyrrho, 143. *et. seq.* The mother of art, 271.
Athol, Duke of, 493. *n.*
Atkinson, Joseph, Epistle to, 84. Epistle from Bermuda to, 118. Tribute to his memory, 491.
At the mid hour of night, 188.
At length thy golden hours have wing'd their flight (Anthologia), 48.
At night, when all is still around, 602.
Attar Gul, or (vulgarly) Otto of Roses, 397.
Augustine to his Sister, 246.
Aurora Borealis, 397.
Aurungzebe, Mogul Emperor of Delhi, 317. 385.
Austrians, their entry into Naples, 463.
Autumn and Spring, 240.
Avenging and bright fall the swift sword of Erin, 187.
Awake, arise, thy light is come, 248.
Awake to life, my sleeping shell (Ode lx. Anacreon), 40.
Away, away, ye men of rules (Ode lii. Anacreon), 35.
Awful event, 535.
Awhile I bloom'd a happy flower (Ode lxxiii. Anacreon), 44.
Azim, vi. 24. *See* Lalla Rookh.
Azor, idols of, 396.
Azrael, the angel of death, 465.
Azure of the Chinese painting of porcelain, 396. *n.*

B.

Babylon, 251.
Ball and Gala described, 258. Allusion to Almack's, 488. *See* Waltz, &c. *et passim.* The Romaika, 265.
Ballads, legendary, 289—310.
Ballads, miscellaneous, 289—310.
Ballads, occasional, *passim.*
Bank, coquetry of the, with Government, 492. Notes, 493.
Bard, the Wandering, 211.
Bards, of, 8. 180. 236. 299. 306. *et passim.*
Battle, after the, 182.
Battle, before the, 181.
Battle eve, song of the, 211.
Battle, the parting before the, 288.
Beaujolais, Count de, xlv.

Beauty and Song, 307.
Beauty, of, 124. 194. 209. 211. 225. 237. 256. 278. 317. &c.
Beckford, To Miss Susan (now Duchess of Hamilton), 95.
Bee, the, 187. 235.
Behold the sun, how bright, 247.
Behold the young, the rosy Spring (Ode XLVI. Anacreon), 32.
Believe me, if all those endearing young charms, 179.
Bell, the silver, 236.
Benah Hasche, or daughters of God, 467.
Benshee, or Banshe, superstition of the, 177.
Bermuda, Farewell to, 115. Some account of that island, 118. *n.*
Big Ben, epistle from Tom Crib to, 401.
Bigotry, Triumph of, 544.
Bird, let loose in eastern skies, The, 242.
Birthday, my, 459.
Birthday, the, 84.
Bishops, the dance of, a dream, 540.
Blackmore, Sir Richard, 440.
Blue Love Song, a, 534.
Blue Stocking, the, 600—602.
Boat glee, 601.
Bohlen, Professor Von, his translation into German of the "Little Man and Little Soul," xxviii.
Bowl, the, 174. 178. 189. 196. iv. 207. 211. 214. 234. 235. 237. 279. 287. &c.
Bride of the Vale, the, 243.
Brien the Brave, 173.
Boston Frigate, To the: — On leaving Halifax for England, 131.
Boy of the Alps, the, 300.
Boy sitting on the lotus flower, 212, 625.
Boy statesman, the, 560.
Boy with a watch, to a, 51.
Boyle Farm, the seat of Lord Henry Fitzgerald, Summer Fête at, xxxviii. 252.
Boyne, river, 208.
Box, the song of the, 558.
Bright be thy dreams, 230.
Bright moon, that high in heaven art shining, 316.
Brighton, the Pavilion at, 399.
Bring hither, bring thy lute, 259.
Bring me the slumbering souls of flowers, 593.
Bring the bright garlands hither, 237.
Brougham, Lord, 494.
Bruce, James, esq., the traveller, 445.
Brummel, Beau, 162.
Brunswick Club, the, 537.
Brunswickers," Incantation from the Tragedy of "The, 529.
Bucharia, Abdalla, king of (in Lalla Rookh), 317. 385. 396, 397. &c.
Buds of roses, virgin flowers (Ode XLIV. Anacreon), 31.
Bull, John, 489. A pastoral ballad by, 513.
Bunting, Mr. 112.*n.*xxviii.xxx.xxxix.*n.*
Burns, Robert, xxxvii. 216.
But who shall see the glorious day, 245. (Stevenson.)
Butterflies denominated *flying leaves* in China, 393.
Byron, Lord, his love of music, xxxvi. Is visited by Mr. Moore at Venice, xlvi. Dedication to him of Mr. Moore's Fables for the Holy Alliance, 427. On his auto-biography, 445. His "Heaven and Earth," li.
By that lake whose gloomy shore, 185.

C.

Cage, the Love, 233.
Call the Loves around, 261.
Cambridge Election, Ballad for the, 497.
Canadian Boat-song, 127.
Candahar, 393.
Canonization of the Saint, 504.
Canova, his Venere Vincitrice, xlvii.
Calm as, beneath its mother's eyes, 275.
Calm be thy sleep as infants' slumbers, 303.
Cara, to, 76.
Care, 196.
Case, a sad, 536.
Cashmere, nuptials of Lalla Rookh at, 317. "Cashmere, the Vale of," sung by Feramorz, 386. The lake of, and islets, 387. *n.* Mountain portal to the lake, 387. *n.* Roses of, 386. The Unequalled Valley, 397. Superstitions of, 397. *n.* A holy land, 397. *n.* The fountain Tirnagh, 397, *n.* "Though sunny the lake of cool Cashmere," 350.
Castalia, the fountain, 281. *n.*
Castlereagh, Lord, satirized, 399. 402. *et seq.* (*See* The Fudge Family, 402. *et passim.*) His departure for the Continent, 555, 556. *See* Satirical Poems, &c.
Catholic Question, the, 522. 524. &c.
Catholics, the Roman, 507. 596.
Catullus, 82. 460.
Caubul, or Caboul, gardens of, 394.
Cecilia, Saint, 538.
Cephalus and Procris, 282.
Ceres, Ode to the Goddess, *by* Sir Thomas L., 494.
Chabuk, the, 398.
Chaldæans, astronomical notions of the ancient, 471. *n.*
Chantrey, Sir Francis. His admiration of Canova, xlvii.
Character, a, 563.
Charity, Angel of, 246. (Handel.)
Charles X., king of France, xlv.
Chatsworth, the Derbyshire ducal mansion of, xxxiv.
Cherries, a conserve in the East, 394.
Cherries, the, 521.
Cherubim, 482.
Child's song: I have a garden of my own, 305.
China, butterfly of, 393.
Chindara's warbling fount, 392.
Chinese, peculiar porcelain painting of the, 396.
Chinese Bird of Royalty, the, or 'Fum,' 399.
Christ, the Saviour, 245. 247, 248. 250.
Christianity, and the Fathers, 612.
Church and State, 433.
Church extension, 575. Songs of the 566.
Circassian slaves, the, 255.
Clare, Earl of, xxxii.
Cleopatra of Alexandria, 638.
Clergy, the numbering of the, a Parody, 535.
Cloë and Susan, 233.
Cloë, to, imitated from Martial, 90.
Cloris and Fanny, 57.
Clouds, summer, 478.
Cocker on Church Reform, 552.
College Exercises, Fragments of, 51.
Come, chase that starting tear away, 225.
Come, come, come hither, by night and by day, 294.
Come not, O Lord, in the dread robe of splendour, 245.
Come o'er the sea, maiden, with me, 192.
Come, play me that simple air again, 605.
Come, pray with me, my scraph love, 481.
Come, rest in this bosom, my own stricken deer, 195.
Come, send round the wine, 178.
Come, take my advice, 515.
Come, take the harp; 'tis vain to muse 97.
Come, ye disconsolate, where'er you languish, 248.
Comet, poetically described, 472. The mad Tory and the, 542.
Common Sense and Genius, 288.
Condolence, Epistle of:— From a Slave Lord to a Cotton-Lord, 330.
Connor, Phelim, his patriotic Poetical Letters, 408. 414. 424.
Consultation, the, 548.
Cookery, art of domestic; to the Reverend ——, 547.
Coolburga, or Koolburga, city of the Deccan, 398.
Corn Question, the, 494. 507. lii.
Correspondence between a Lady and Gentleman respecting *Law*, 168.
Corruption, an Epistle, by an Irishman, 132—138.
Corry, Mr., his merit as an amateur comedian, xlviii. 436. To Isaac Corry, esq., on the present of a wine-strainer, 436.
Cotton and Corn, a distinguo, 503.
Count me, on the summer trees (Ode XIV. Anacreon), 13.
Country Dance and Quadrille, 488.
Court Journal, the, 594.
Cousins, Country, News for, 501.
Crabbe, the Poet, Verses on the Inkstand of, 461.
Crib, Tom, Epistle from, to Big Ben, 401.
Critias of Athens, his verses on Anacreon, 48. *n.*
Criticism, the genius of, 490.
Cross, the, an emblem of future life in Egyptian hieroglyphics, 619. 646. 676. 680.
Crowe, Rev. William, his poetic vein, xxxvi. xxxix.
Crown of virgin martyrs, poisoned, 667. *n.*
Crystal Hunters, the, 231.
Cupid arm'd, 308.
Cupid once upon a bed (Ode XXXV. Anacreon), 27.
Cupid, whose lamp has lent the ray (Anacreontic), 45.
Cupid, poetical allusions to, 45. 94. 101. 224. 297. 312. 314. *Vide* Love.
Cupid, Sale of, by Meleager, 310.
Cupid's Lottery, 601.
Curious Fact, a, 528.

Curran, John Philpot, his pleasantry, xlv.
Curran, Miss, xxx.

D.

Dacre, Lady, Epilogue to her Tragedy of Ina, 602.
Damascus, the Green Mosque at, 386. *n.*
Dan, some account of the late dinner to, 571.
Dandies, 252. 255.
Danes, the, 178. 211. 214. The Scandinavian poetry, 440.
Dante, his Inferno, imitation of, 520. The Dream of the Two Sisters, 605. His contrition of mind, liii.
David, the harp of, 248.
Davidson, Lucretia, xxxiv.
Davy, Sir Humphrey, his lamp, 457.
Dawn is breaking o'er us, 309.
Day, 242. 254.
Day-dream, the, 603.
Deadman's Isle:—Romance, 130.
Dear Fanny, 292.
Dear harp of my country! in darkness I found thee, 196.
Dear? Yes, tho' mine no more, 313.
Death, emblem of, 619. Opening of the Gates of Oblivion, 620. The upright bodies in catacombs, 621.
Death and the dead, allusions to, 243. 247. 480. 628.
Debt, National, 544.
Decius Prætorian prefect, Orcus, high priest of Memphis, to, 678.
Delatorian Cohort, the, 402.
Delhi, visit of Abdalla to Aurungzebe at, 317. Splendours of the court and city, 318. Mogul emperors of, 393. *notes.*
Delphi, transport of laurel to, 62. The shrine, 307. To a virgin of, 80.
Deluge, tablets saved by Seth from the, 482.
Deluge, the, Whiston's notion of its being caused by a comet, 657.
Dens, Doctor, 596. 599.
Derbyshire, Mr. Moore's residence in, l.
Desmond's Song, and tradition relating to that chieftain, 208.
Destiny, the Island of, 212.
Devil among the Scholars, the, 101.
Dewan Khafs, built by Shah Allum, its inscription, 394. *n.*
Dialogue, a recent, 562.
Dick ——, a character, 540.
Dictionary, Revolution in the, headed by Mr. Galt, 532.
Did not, 54.
Dissolution of the Holy Alliance; a Dream, 428.
Doctors, the Three, 499.
Dodsworth, Mr. Roger (*anno* 1826), 497.
Donegall, Marchioness of, Letter to, 217. Poetical Epistle from Bermuda to her Ladyship, 109. Dedication to, 172.
Donkey and Panniers, 506.
Dost thou remember, 226.
Dove, the, 246.
Dove of Mahomet, the, 479. 504.
Drama, Sketch of the First Act of a new Romantic, 557.
Dream of Hindoston, a, 536.
Dream of Home, the, 302.
Dream of the Two Sisters, from Dante, 605.
Dream of those days, the, 215.
Dream of Turtle, *by Sir W. Curtis*, 505.
Dream, Sir Andrew's, 533.
Dream, the Limbo, &c., 519.
Dreaming for ever, vainly dreaming, 316.
Dreams, poetical mention of, 58. 230. 235. 237. 540.
Drinking Songs, &c., 174. 177, 178. 189. 207. 211. 214. &c.
Drink of this cup, 202.
Drink of this cup, Osiris sips, 625.
Drink to her, who long, 180.
Druids, and Druidical superstitions, 212, 213.
Duigenan, Doctor, xxxiii.
Duke is the lad to frighten a lass, The, 554.

E.

East, poetical romances of the (Lalla Rookh), 319. 385—398.
Eblis, the evil spirit, 322. 469.
Echo, 204. 226. 259. 323. 485.
Echoes, New-fashioned, 528.
Eden, some allusions to, 213, 214. 356. 466. 471.
Egerton, Lord Francis, 252.
Egypt's dark sea, 244. The desolation of, 245.
Egyptians, the ancient; of the countenance of the women, 612. *n.* Their hieroglyphics, 525.
Eldon, Lord Chancellor, conservative tears of, 498. 516. Nightcap of, 501. A wizard, 502. His hat and wig, 510. His Lordship on the Umbrella Question, 513. His conscientious conservatism (*after* Horace, Ode xxii. lib. i.), 166. His wig, 165.
Eloquence, 401.
Emmett, Robert; his eloquence, xxix. His enthusiasm, xxx. His offence, xxxii.
Emmett, Thomas Addis, xxx.
Enchanted tree, the, 650.
Enigma, 515.
Epicure's dream, 400.
Epicurean, the, 606.
Epicureans, busts of the most celebrated philosophers of their sect at Athens, 608.
Epicurus, 98. 114. 608. &c.
Epigrams, by Mr. Moore, 83. 164, 165. 171. 486.
Epigrams of the Anthologia in praise of Anacreon, 46—48.
Epilogue, occasional, spoken by Mr. Corry in the character of Vapid, after the play of the Dramatist, at the Kilkenny theatre, 456. To the tragedy of Ina, 602.
Erasmus on earth, to Cicero in the shades; an Epistle, 554.
Erin, oh Erin, 179.
Erin! the tear and the smile in thine eyes, 173.
Erin, poetical allusions to, 194, 195. 208. 211. 215.
Erin, some political allusions to, 513. *See* Ireland, *et passim.*
Essex, the late Earl of, xxxviii.
Eternal life, ancient belief of an, 619. 623. 627.
Eve, the second Angel describes her, 471. Alluded to by the third Angel, 484.
Eveleen's bower, 177.
Evenings in Greece.—First Evening, 262. Second Evening, 270.
Ex-t-r, Henry of, to John of Tuam, 567.
Exeter Hall, the Reverends of, 596. 599.
Exquisites, 252. 257.
Exile, the, 303.
Extinguishers, the, 436.

F.

Fables for the Holy Alliance, 428.
Fadladeen, great Nazir of the Haram (in Lalla Rookh), his vanity, 319. *et seq.* 385, 386. His criticisms, 347. 356. 396. His recantation, 398.
Fairest! put on awhile, 206.
Fairy boat, the, 276.
Faith, 247. 249.
Fall'n is thy throne, O Israel! 242.
Family-way, All in the; a pastoral, 496.
Fancy, 459.
Fancy, prismatic dyes of, 443.
Fancy, various allusions to, 95. 108. 256.
Fancy Fair, the, 303.
Fanny, dearest! 459.
Farce, the triumphs of, 576.
Fare thee well, thou lovely one, 225.
Fare thee well, perfidious maid (Ode lxxii. Anacreon), 44.
Farewell!—but whenever you welcome the hour, 191.
Farewell, Theresa, 234.
Fear not that, while around thee, 239.
Feramorz and the Princess, 319. 349. 357. 359. 385. His song, 386. Dénouement of the fiction of his disguise, 398.
Ferdinand VII., Ode to King, 510.
Fête, the, at Boyle Farm, 252. *See* Summer Fête.
Fill, me, boy, as deep a draught (Ode lxii. Anacreon), 41.
Fill the bumper fair, 196.
Fin M'Cumhal, the Finians, and Fingal, 214.
Fionnuala, the Song of, 178.
Fire-fly, To the, 119.
Fire-flies, 109. 214. 401. 480.
Fire-worship of Persia and the East, 359. The persecuted Ghebers, 359. Story, "The Fire-worshippers," 359—385. *Vide* Lalla Rookh.
Fitzgerald, the late Lord Henry, 252.
Fleetly o'er the moonlight snows, 317.
Flow on, thou shining river, 224.
Flowers, the language of, 309.
Fly and the bullock, the, 432.
Fly from the world, O Bessy! to me, 69.
Fly not thus, my brow of snow (Ode li. Anacreon), 34.
Fly not yet, 'tis just the hour, 174.
Fly swift, my light gazelle, 309.
Fly to the desert, fly with me, 395.
Flying fish, to the, 107.
Follies, the book of,—an album, 68.
Fontenelle, M., consistency of, 459.
Fool's Paradise: Dream the First, 550. For thee alone I brave the boundless deep, 300.
Forbes, Lady Adelaide, portrait of, 92. xlv.
Forbes, to Lord; from the city of Washington, 119.

Forget not the field where they perished, 200.
Formosa, island of, 444.
Fortune-Teller, the, 203.
Fox, Right Hon. Charles James, 166.
Fragment, a, 81. 91.
Fragment of a Character, 487.
Freedom, 256. 293, 294.
Friend, on the death of a, 486. 490.
Friends, on leaving some, 95.
Friendship, a temple to, 223.
Friendship and Love, 240.
From dread Leucadia's frowning steep (Anacreontic), 46.
From the land beyond the sea, 128.
From this hour the pledge is given, 215.
Fruit, varieties of eastern, 393.
Fudge Family in Paris, the, 402.
Fudges, the, in England, being a Sequel to the "Fudge Family in Paris," 581.
Fudge, Phil., esq., his political conduct and *penchant*, 402—427. His Poetical Letter to Lord C—st—r—gh, 404. To Tim. Fudge, esq., 411. To Viscount C—st—r—gh, 418. His Journal, addressed to Lord C., 419.
Fudge, Mr. Bob, his Letters to Richard ——, esq., 406. 416. To the Rev. Mortimer O'Mulligan, 594.
Fudge, Miss Biddy, her Poetical Letters from Paris to Miss Dorothy ——, of Clonkilty in Ireland, 402. 409. *See also* 422. 425. 581, 582.
Fudge, Miss Fanny's Epistles, 585. 593. Her uncle's bequest, 600.
*** *See Connor, O'Branigan, and O'Mulligan, in this Index.*
Fum and Hum, the two Birds of Royalty, 399.

G.

Gaily sounds the castanet, 229.
Galt, Mr., and the Dictionary, 532.
Galaxy, or Milky Way, 100.
Ganges, blue current of the, 394.
Garden, the dream of the, 607. 609. 622. Festival of the, 608.
Gazel and Maami, 489.
Gazel, by Abdallah, 155.
Gazelle, the, 236.
Genius, poetical allusions to, 228.
Genius and Criticism, 491.
George III., King, 161. *et passim.*
George IV. (Prince Regent, and King). *See* Intercepted Letters, 149. 160. Parody of a celebrated Letter, 161. The Prince's Plume, 163. Ich Dien, 163. The Old Yellow Chariot, 163. The Privy Purse, 164. King Crack and his Idols, 164. Prince of Wales's Feathers, 161. 401. The Prince's Day, 184. Bird of Royalty, liii. 399.
Georgian Maid, the, 395.
Geramb, Baron, and mustachios, 163.
Gheber, the, 364. *et seq.*
Ghost Story, a, 564.
Give me the harp of epic song (Ode II. Anacreon), 9.
Glees, set of, 287—289.
Gnomes, doctrine of, 476.
Go forth to the mount, 251.
Go, let me weep, there's bliss in tears, 244.
Go now, and dream, 234.
Go, then! 'tis vain to hover, 231.
Go where glory waits thee, 172.
Gondolas and gondoliers, 226. 231. 233. 256.
Goose of the river Nile, 637.
Government, financial, 492.
Grammont, Count de, 100.
Grattan, on the death of, 204.
Grecian girl's dream of the Blessed Islands; to her lover, 88.
Grecian Maiden, the — Song, 271.
Grecian Youth, the, 278. *et seq.*
Greece, isles of, 256. 263. Zean maids, 3. *et seq.* Allusions to Greece in Lalla Rookh, 321. *et seq.* Evenings in Greece; — First Evening, Zea, 263. Second Evening, 270.
Greek Ode, prefixed to the Translation of Anacreon, 2. Corrections of this Ode by an eminent Scholar, 3.
Greeks, The group that late in garb of, 259. *See* 256.
Grenada, the young muleteers of, 291.
Guess, guess; — the lady of my love, 314.
Guidi, sonnet by, with a translation, 19. *n.*, 20. Ode by Guidi on the Arcadians, xlvii.
Guitar of India, the Syrinda, 394.
Gull language, translation from the, 544.
Gulliver, Captain Lemuel, 491.
Gun, The Evening, 289.
Gynæocracy, proposals for a, 537.

H.

Hafiz, the poet, 396. *n.*
Halcyon hangs o'er ocean, The, 305.
Haram, Jehanghir's, 387. The Light of the Haram, 388.
Hark! the vesper hymn is stealing, 226.
Hark! 'tis the breeze of twilight calling, 250.
Harmony, the genius of, 77.
Haroun-al-Rashid the Caliph, 386.
Harp, certain of the poetical allusions to that instrument, 69. 196. 204. 211. 213. 227. 248.
Harp of my country! in darkness I found thee, 196.
Harp, the origin of the, 183.
Harp, Farewell to the, xxxiv.
Harp that once through Tara's halls, The, 174.
Harut and Marut, the Angels, 468.
Has sorrow thy young days shaded, 192.
Hassan, Al, the Prophet Chief of Arabia, 361. 370. 372. *See* Story of the Fire-worshippers, 359. *et seq.*
Haste thee, nymph, whose well-aimed spear (Ode LXIV. Anacreon), 42.
Hastings, Marquis of (Earl Moira), and visit to his mansion at Donington, xlv. 128. His library, xlv. Dedication to Francis Earl of Moira, 104.
Hat, Ode to a, 500.
Hat *versus* Wig, 510.
Have you not seen the timid tear, 53.
He who instructs the youthful crew. (Ode LVI. Anacreon), 37.
Headfort, Marchioness of, Dedication to, 222.
Hear me but once, while o'er the grave, 230.
Heard, Sir Isaac, and the Peerage, 500.
Heart and lute, My, 298.
Heart to rest, No, leave my, 236.
Heathcote, to Lady:—on a ring found at Tunbridge Wells, 100.
Hebe, The Fall of:—a dithyrambic ode, 92.
Henley, Lord, and St. Cecilia, 538.
Henry to Lady Emma, 543.
Her last words at parting, how can I forget? 300.
Hercules to his daughter, song of, 301.
Here, take my heart, 290.
Here recline you, gentle maid (Ode XIX. Anacreon), 19.
Here sleeps Anacreon, in this ivied shade (Anthologia), 47.
Here sleeps the Bard, 236.
Here, while the moonlight dim, 269.
Here's the bower she lov'd so much, 293.
Hero and Leander, 281.
High-born Ladye, the, 283.
Hinda, the Arabian maid. *See* the Story of the Fire-worshippers, 359. *et seq.*
Hither, gentle Muse of mine (Ode LXXVI. Anacreon), 45.
Holland, Lord, regret for the death of, liii. Translations by, liii.
Holland, to Lady, on a legacy by Napoleon, 602.
Holy Alliance, Fables for the, 427.
Hooker, Bishop, on *οι* and *ου*, 503.
Hope comes again, to this heart long a stranger, 238.
Hope, poetical allusions to, 227. 235. 251. 600.
Horace, free translations of some Odes of:— Come, Yarmouth, my boy, never trouble your brains (Ode xi. lib. 2.), 165. The man who keeps a conscience pure (Ode xxii. lib. 1.), 166. I hate thee, oh Mob, as my Lady hates delf (Ode i. lib. 3.), 171. Boy, tell the cook that I hate all nick-nackeries (Ode xxxviii. lib. 1.), 171. Parody of 'Donec gratus eram tibi,' or Horace's return to Lydia, 258.
Horn, the, 237.
How am I to punish thee (Ode x. Anacreon), 12.
How dear to me the hour, 176.
How happy once, tho' wing'd with sighs, 297.
How I love the festive boy (Ode XXXIX. Anacreon), 31.
How lightly mounts the Muse's wing, 250.
How shall I woo? 240.
How sweetly does the moonbeam smile, 362.
Hudson, Edward, recollections of him and of his musical taste, xxxi. xxxiv.
Hume, David, History of England by, 146.
Hume, Joseph, esq., 494. 495. *n. et passim.*
Hume, to Thomas, Esq., M.D.; written at Washington, 122.
Humorous and Satirical Poems, 491—580.
Hunt, Henry, esq., his spurious coffee, 494.
Hunter boy, the, 229. 237.
Hush, hush!—a Glee; 287.
Hush, sweet lute, 315.
Hussun Abdaul, valley of, 385. Royal gardens near, 386.

Hymen, poetical allusions to, 232.
Hymn of a Virgin of Delphi, at the Tomb of her Mother, 62.
Hyperborean, song of a, 307.

I.

I care not for the idle state (Ode VIII. Anacreon), 11.
I dreamt that in the Paphian groves, 59.
I had, last night, a dream of thee, 478.
I fear that love disturbs my rest (Anacreontic), 45.
I found her not — the chamber seem'd, 79.
I know that heaven hath sent me here (Ode XL. Anacreon), 30.
I know thou lov'st a brimming measure (Anacreontic), 45.
I often wish this languid lyre (Ode XXIII. Anacreon), 21.
I pray thee, by the gods above! (Ode IX. Anacreon), 11.
I pray you, let us roam no more, 113.
I saw, from yonder silent cave, 267.
I saw from the beach, when the morning was shining, 195.
I saw the moon rise clear, 293.
I saw the smiling bard of pleasure, (Ode I. Anacreon), 8.
I saw thy form in youthful prime, 185.
I stole along the flowery bank, 116.
I thought this heart enkindled lay, 62.
I've a secret to tell thee, 212.
I will, I will, the conflict's past (Ode XIII. Anacreon), 13.
I wish I was by that dim lake, 209.
Ianthe, 252. Before her glass, 253.
I'd mourn the hopes that leave me, 192.
Idols in the house of Azor, 396. Of King Crack, 164. Of Jaghernaut, 319.
If hoarded gold possess'd the power (Ode XXXVI. Anacreon), 28.
If I swear by that eye, you'll allow, 51.
If I were yonder wave, my dear, 115.
If in loving, singing, night and day, 238.
If thou'lt be mine, 199.
If thou wouldst have me sing and play, 304.
If to see thee be to love thee, 261.
Ill omens: — Young Kitty, &c., 181.
Imagination, 256.
Imitation, from the French, 461. *See also* Anthologia, Horace, &c.
Immortality, stars the beacons of, 640.
Impromptu, 61. 95. 130. 171.
In myrtle wreaths my votive sword, 312.
In the morning of life, 197.
In wedlock a species of lottery lies, 61.
Ina, by Lady Dacre, 602.
Incantation, an, 505.
Inconstancy, 60.
India, poetical allusions to, 317. 385. 393, 394. *et seq.*
Indian boat, the, 284.
Indian maid, the young, 302.
Indian tree, the, 463.
Inkstand, the poet's, 461.
Innisfail, Song of, 212.
Innisfallen, isle of, 206.
Insurrection of the Papers; a Dream, 160.
Intercepted Despatch, Diabolo's, 498.
Intercepted Letters, the, of the Two-penny Post-bag, 149, &c.
Intolerance, a Satire: Account of "Corruption" and "Intolerance." *See* XXV. Preface to Intolerance and Corruption, 132, 133. The Satire, 142.
Invisible Girl, the, 71.
Invitation to dinner; addressed to Lord Lansdowne, 461.
Iran, Land of, 394. *See* Lalla Rookh, *passim*.
Ireland, and her national music, xxix. xxxiv.
Ireland; certain traditions and romances respecting, 173. 178. 185. 187, 188. 190. 203. 208, 209. 211, 212, 213, 214.
Ireland, politics and political sensibility of the kingdom of (*see* the Fudge Family), 402—427. 583. The penal code 498. The outbreak of 1798, xxi. *et seq.* Romanism in, 573. Thoughts on the present government of (1828), 518.
Irish antiquities, 527.
Irish bed of roses, an, 171. *n.*
Irishman, Satires, &c., addressed to an Englishman by an, 133—142.
Irish Melodies, 172. Dedication to the Marchioness Dowager of Donegall, 172. Preface, 172. The Melodies, 172. 222. Advertisements to the first and second Nos., 216.; to the third, 216. Letter on Irish music, 217. Advertisements to the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh Nos., 220—222. Dedication to the Marchioness of Headfort, 222. *See* National Airs, 223. *et seq.*
Irish Peasant to his Mistress, 182.
Irish Slave, the, 509.
Irving, Washington, l. 208.
Is it not sweet to think, hereafter, 251. (Haydn.)
Is not thy mind a gentle mind? 54.
Israfil, the angel of Music, 395. 465.
It is not the tear at this moment shed, 183.

J.

Jeffrey, Francis Lord, the author's visit to Craig Crook, xxxvii.
Jehan Gheer, or Jehanguire, Emperor of Delhi and Hindostan, 387. His palace, 393. *n.* His early name of Selim, 390. His bride, 393. 396.
Jerome's love (St.), 242. St. Jerome's first visit on earth, 546. His second visit, 547.
Jerusalem, the holy city of, 242.
Jessica, young, 297.
Johnson, Dr. Samuel, on Mallet, 598. *n.*
Joy alone be remembered now, 298.
Joys of youth, how fleeting! 229.
Juan, Don, 166.
Jubal's shell, alluded to, 254.
Judgment Day, and a supposed wind from Syria Damascena to announce it, 397. *n.*
Judgment, the day of, 247.
Julia, to, in allusion to some illiberal criticisms, 55. Mock me no more with Love's beguiling dream, 55. Though Fate, my girl, may bid us part, 56. On her Birth-day, 57. To Julia, weeping, 58. Inconstancy, 60. Elegiac Stanzas, supposed to be written by Julia, on the death of her brother, 61. I saw the peasant's hand unkind, 62. Sympathy, 63.
Juvenile Poems, 49—103. Preface by "the late Thomas Little," 49. Dedication to Joseph Atkinson, Esq., 50.

K.

Kathleen, 186.
Keder Khan of Turkistan, 318.
Kenmare, Earl of, 206.
Kevin, Saint, tradition, 186.
Khorassan, the Veiled Prophet of, 320—347.
Kilkenny amateur actors, talent of the, xlviii. 353. Extract from a Prologue, &c., 356.
Killarney, lakes and traditions of, 203. 206.
King, Lord, an Expostulation to, 493.
Kishma, wine of, 394.
Kiss, the, 81. 111.
Kublai Khan, 394.

L.

Labyrinth, in Egypt, 634. *n.*
Lahore, description of the city of, and the midland districts of India, 358, &c.
Lake of the Dismal Swamp, 108.
Lake of the Temples, 608.
Lalla Rookh, an Eastern Romance; history of this poem, xxxix. *et seq.* Representation of it as a dramatic pageant of the Château Royal, Berlin, in 1822, when the emperor and empress of Russia personated Aliris and Lalla Rookh, xliii. "The veiled prophet of Khorassan," 320—347. The criticisms by Fadladeen on this story, 347. Paradise and the Peri, 350. Fadladeen renews his criticism, 356. The Fire-worshippers, 359—385. The Light of the Haram, 386. Design of this poetic undertaking related, xxi. l.
Lama, the Little Grand, 434.
Lansdowne, Lord, invitation, to dinner, addressed to, 461.
Lawrence, Dr., friend of Edmund Burke; his letter to Dr. Hume respecting the version of Anacreon by Mr. Moore, xx.
Lay his sword by his side, 214.
Leaf and the Fountain, a ballad, 281.
Learning, 88.
Lebanon, Mount, 249.
Legacy, the, 176.
Leila's lute, 601.
Les hommes automates, 553.
Lesbia, to, 460.
Lesbia hath a beaming eye, 185.
Let Erin remember the days of old, 178.
Let me resign this wretched breath (Anacreontic), 45.
Let's take this world as some wide scene, 301.
Let us drain the nectar'd bowl (Ode XXXVIII. Anacreon), 29.
Leucadia, legends of, 264.
Levée and couchée, the, 261.
Libel, a Case of, 507.
Liberty, 179. 195. 214, 215. 235. 262. 267. 602.
Liberty, the Torch of, 431.
Life is waning, Do not say that, 236.
Life is all chequer'd with pleasures and woes, 187.

Life for me hath joy, &c., 299.
Life without freedom, 293.
Light sounds the harp when the combat is over, 69.
Like morning, when her early breeze, 248.
Like one who doom'd o'er distant seas, 239.
Like some wanton filly sporting (Ode LXV. Anacreon), 42.
Like the bright lamp that shone in Kildare's holy fane, 179.
Lilis, 479.
Lily of the Nile, the white, 616.
Limbo of lost reputations, 518.
Lion, dead, and the living dog, 517.
Lionardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, 259.
Listen to the Muse's lyre (Ode III. Anacreon), 9.
Literary advertisement, to *authors*, 508.
Literati, sick, 572.
Literature, speed of, 570.
Little Grand Lama, the, 434.
Little Man and Little Soul, a ballad, particulars respecting it, XXVII. The poem, 170.
Lizard (*Stellio*), account of the, 386. *n.*
Long years have passed, old friend, since we, 316.
Looking-glasses, the, 430.
Lord, who shall bear that day, 247.
Lotus wreath, 394.
Lotus branch, and the bird taking flight, mythos of the, 620.
Lotus flower, 94. Statue of the winged boy seated on a, 625. The spell, 625. An emblem of beauty, 361. *n.*
Louis Philippe, King, account of, when at Donington Park, XLV.
Louis the Fourteenth's Wig, 437.
Love, a tutor, 641.
Love alone, 241.
Love, all-defying Love, 361.
Love and Hope, 227. (Swiss Air.)
Love and marriage, 64.
Love came by, 282.
Love resting his wings, 394.
Love and the vine, 279.
Love a sentinel: Glee — Hush, Hush, 287.
Love, one summer eve, was straying, 275.
Love and the Novice, 187.
Love and Hymen, 463.
Love is a hunter boy, 229.
Love-knots, who'll buy my, 232.
Love, a few allusions to, 42. 44. 115. 119. 182. 188, 189. 209, 210. 225. 227. 230. 232. 235, 236. 239. 250, 251. 255. 261. 265. 271. 290. 296. 311. 313. 468. 472. 476. 483. 486.
Love, mythological hymn to, 91.
Love and Learning, 88.
Love and Reason, 87.
Love and Time, 293.
Love and the Sun-dial, 293.
Love wandering thro' the golden maze. 294.
Love, unbind thee, 313.
Love, who ruled as admiral o'er, 314.
Love thee? — so well, so tenderly, 295.
Love thee, dearest? 298.
Love but thee, I, 297.
Love's day, 296.
Love's light summer cloud, 294.
Love's victory, 301.
Love's young dream, 184.
Lover, the, 240. 254. 268, 281. *n.*; 473. 475.
Lover, the Persian, 155.
Lover, the Russian, 317.
Loves of the angels, li. Preface to the poems, 464. The poem, 465. First Angel's story, 466. Second Angel's Story, 471. Third Angel's Story, 482.
Loves, the Sale of, 59.
Lowe, Sir Hudson, to, 491.
Lusitanian war-song, 296.
Lute, the, 393. 601.
Lying, 65.
Lyre, the poet's, 239.
Lyre, the tell-tale, 85.

M.

Machiavelian policy, condemned, 444.
Macrianus, prætorian prefect, 663.
Magan, Patrick, Esq., his Epistles to a Curate in Ireland, 581. 587. 599.
Magic Mirror, the, 283.
Magnet, woman a, 476.
Mahomet, religion of (*see* Lalla Rookh), 322. *et seq.*
Mahomet, the *Seal* of preceding prophecy, 477. The familiar dove of, 479. 505.
Mahometans, belief of the, 465, 467. 470. 478. 482. The chief angels, 465, 466. 470, 471. 478.
Mahommed Shaw, feast and throne of, 398. *n.*
Maiden, the sleeping, 237.
Maidens of Zea, 269. *et passim.*
Malthus, allusions to, 489. 492. 516.
March! nor heed those arms that hold thee, 278.
Martyrs, the, 250. 664, 665., *et seq.*; the crown of martyrdom, 666, 667.
Mary, 185.
Mary, star of the sea, 270.
Mary, I believ'd thee true, 84.
Mathews, Mr. Charles, 560.
Matriculation, scene from a play acted at Oxford, called, 549.
Mauri-ga-Sima, or the sunken island, 394.
May moon, the young, 189.
Melanius, the hermit, 655—658. 661. 666.
Meleager: — Here at thy tomb these tears I shed, 310. Various imitations from, 69. 310. 312.
Melodies, Irish, 172—222. Succeeded by the National Airs, 223. *et seq.*
Memorabilia of last week (March 13. 1826), 496.
Memory, poetical allusions to, 226. 466. 482.
Memphis, on the Nile, 615.; sacred college of, 628.
Menage, Anacreontic in Greek by, with a translation, 24. *n.*
Merou, city of Khorassan, 320. 343.
Methinks the pictur'd bull we see (Ode LIV. Anacreon), 36.
Miguel, Don, Ode to, 517.
Milesius and the Milesians, 212.
Millennium, the, — and the Rev. Mr. Irving, 499.
Miltiades, the Ghost of, 531.
Minaret, chants from an illuminated, 387. *n.*
Minerva, or Pallas, and Love, 275.
Minerva's thimble, 297.
Ministers, the new costume of the, 167. The Sale of the Tools, 169.
Ministers, wreaths for the, 165.
Minstrel Boy, the, 190.
Miriam's Song, 244.
Miscellaneous Poems, 456. 486. 602.
Mischief, thoughts on, by Lord St—n—l—y, his first attempt, 578.
Missing, Lord de * * *, 535.
Mix me, child, a cup divine (Anacreontic), 46.
Mœris, island of the lake, 635.
Mohawk River, lines written at the Cohos or Falls of the, 124.
Mokanna, the prophet-chief of Khorassan, 320, 321. *et seq.*
Monarch Love, resistless boy (Ode LXXIV. Anacreon), 44.
Monopoly, present spirit of, 495.
Mont-Blanc, sublime prospect of 442.
Montaigne quoted, 440.
Montpensier, Duke of, to the, 92.
Moon, poetical mention of the, 268, 269. 277. *et passim.*
Moon, that high in heav'n art shining, 316.
Moore, Mrs., XXXI. To my mother, 463.
Moore, to Miss, from Norfolk in Virginia, 107.
Moral positions, a dream, 542.
Morality, an epistle, 84.
Morgan, George, Esq. (of Norfolk, Virginia), epistle to, from Bermuda, 110.
Morning, 195. 248.
Morning Herald, the, 499.
Morning Post, the, 594.
Morris, Capt., his song, "My Muse, too, when her wings are dry," XXXVIII.
Moschus, his first Idyl, quoted, 20. *n.*
Moses, 248.
Mountain Sprite, the, 208.
"Mum" to the editor of the Morning Chronicle, 399.
Murray, Mr.; his contemplated Mail-coach edition of Rokeby, 153.
Muse, the, 261.
Music, Angel of, 315. *n.*
Music and Melodies, an account of some of our modern poets who had a taste for, and a knowledge of, XXXVI. *et seq.*
Music, the Prefatory Letter on Irish, 217.
Music, on: — Song, 183. 309.
Music, poetical allusions to, 210. 215. 236, 237. 485.
Music, a Melologue upon National, 285—287.
Music of the spheres, 472.
Musical Box, the: — Rose and the Poet, 309.
My gentle harp, 197.
My harp has one unchanging theme, 227.
Mythology, Egyptian and Greek, 607. *et passim.*

N.

Nama, 482. 484.
Namouna, the enchantress, 390. Calls down sleep on Nourmahal, 391.
Naples, lines on the entry of the Austrians into, in 1821, 463.
Napoleon, the Emperor, consigned to the rock of St. Helena, 461. Allu-

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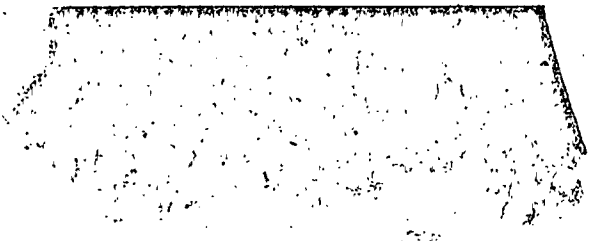

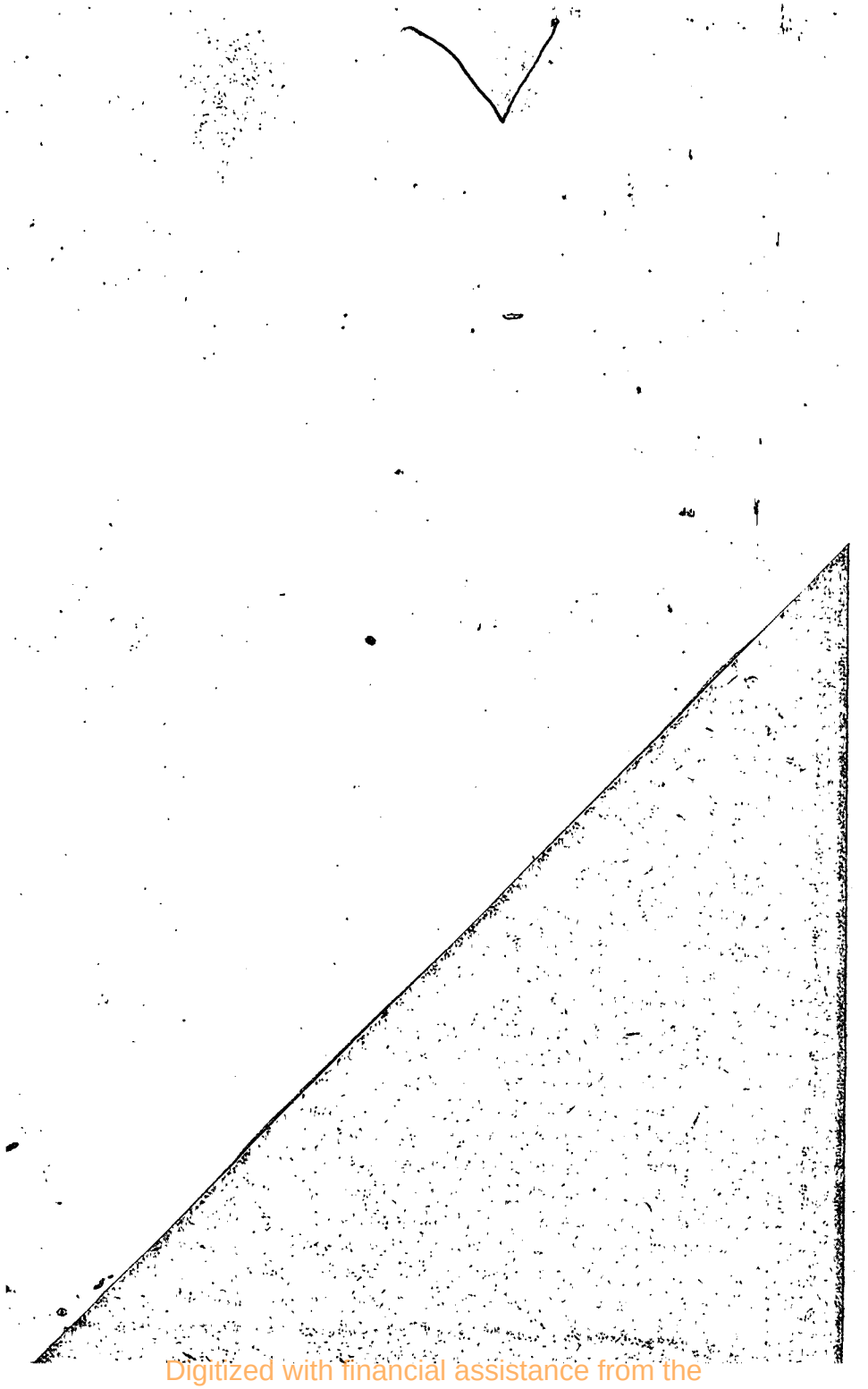

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